AN

HISTORICAL AND CHRONOLOGICAL DEDUCTION

OF THE

ORIGIN OF COMMERCE,

FROM THE EARLIEST ACCOUNTS.

IN FOUR VOLUMES.

G.R. III
BRITISH MUSEUM

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AN
HISTORICAL AND CHRONOLOGICAL DEDUCTION
OF THE

ORIGIN OF COMMERCE,

FROM THE EARLIEST ACCOUNTS.
CONTAINING
AN HISTORY
OF THE
GREAT COMMERCIAL INTERESTS
OF THE
BRITISH EMPIRE.
TO WHICH IS PREFIXED,
AN INTRODUCTION,
EXHIBITING
A VIEW OF THE ANCIENT AND MODERN STATE OF EUROPE;
AND OF THE
FOREIGN AND COLONIAL COMMERCE, SHIPPING, MANUFACTURES, FISHERIES, &c.
OF
GREAT-BRITAIN AND IRELAND;
AND THEIR INFLUENCE ON THE LANDED INTEREST.
WITH
TWO APPENDIXES,
THE ONE CONTAINING
THE MODERN POLITICO-COMMERCIAL GEOGRAPHY OF THE SEVERAL COUNTRIES OF EUROPE;
AND THE OTHER,
AN ACCOUNT OF SOME NEW MANUFACTURES, USEFUL INVENTIONS,
AND RECENT COMMERCIAL REGULATIONS.
CAREFULLY REVISED, CORRECTED, AND CONTINUED TO THE PRESENT TIME.

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HISTORICAL AND CHRONOLOGICAL DEDUCTION

OF THE

ORIGIN OF COMMERCE,

FROM THE EARLIEST ACCOUNTS, &c.

EIGHTEENTH CENTURY,

Continued from the Year 1762, *the Period at which Mr.* ANDERSON *cloſed his* HISTORY, *down to the End of the Year* 1788.

A. D.
1763 IN the early part of this year, peace was concluded by the belligerent powers of Europe.—On the tenth day of February, the definitive treaty of peace was ſigned, and ſoon after ratified, between the court of Great Britain and thoſe of France and Spain; and between the two latter crowns and that of Portugal.—On the twenty-ſecond of March following, peace was proclaimed, with the uſual ſolemnities, at London.

In this definitive treaty, the moſt material alterations from, or explanations of, the preliminary articles of peace, of the third day of November, 1762, are :—

I. That inſtead of the fifth article of the preliminaries, relating to Dunkirk, the thirteenth article of the definitive treaty ſtipulates, "That Dunkirk ſhall be put into the ſtate fixed by " the laſt treaty of Aix la Chapelle, and by former treaties. The *Cunette** ſhall be deſtroyed " immediately after the exchange of the ratifications of the preſent treaty, as well as the forts " and batteries which defend the entrance on the ſide of the ſea; and proviſion ſhall be made " at the ſame time for the wholeſomeneſs of the air, and for the health of the inhabitants, by " ſome other means, to the ſatisfaction of the King of Great Britain."

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* A *Cunette*, ſometimes called a *Cuvette*, is generally deſcribed to be a deep trench, (moſtly a wet one) dug along the bottom of a broader or larger dry ditch, for rendering the approach to the place more difficult.

1763 II. That, inſtead of the tenth preliminary, the eleventh article of the definitive treaty ſtipulates, "That Great Britain ſhall reſtore to France, in the condition they now are in, the "different factories (in the preliminary article called comptoirs) which that crown poſſeſſed, "as well on the coaſt of Coromandel and Orixa, as on that of Malabar, as alſo in Bengal, at "the beginning of the year 1749; and France renounces all pretenſions to the acquiſitions "ſhe had made on the coaſt of Coromandel and Orixa;" (*i. e.* Fort St. David, and its dependencies) "And his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty ſhall reſtore, on his part, all that he may have "conquered from Great Britain in the Eaſt Indies during the preſent war; and will expreſsly "cauſe Nattal and Tapanoully," *i. e.* Bencoolen, &c. "in the iſland of Sumatra, to be re"ſtored. And he further engages, not to erect fortifications, or to keep troops in any parts "of the dominions of the Subah" commonly called the Nabob, "of Bengal. And, in "order to preſerve future peace on the coaſt of Coromandel and Orixa, the Engliſh and "French ſhall acknowlegde Mahomet Ally Khan for lawful Nabob of the Carnatic, and "Salabat Jing for lawful Subah of the Decan; and both parties ſhall renounce all demands "and pretenſions of ſatisfaction with which they might charge each other, or their Indian "allies, for the depredations or pillage committed on either ſide during the war."

To this article, his Grace the Duke of Bedford ſubjoined a declaration, importing "That, "for the preventing of all ſubject of diſpute, on account of the limits of the territories of the "Subah of Bengal, as well as of the coaſt of Coromandel and Orixa, the ſaid territories of the "Subah of Bengal, ſhall be reputed to extend only as far as the Yanaon excluſively; and that "the Yanaon ſhall be conſidered as included in the northern part of the coaſt of Coromandel "and Orixa."

III. Inſtead of the fourth article of the preliminaries, by which the French King obliges himſelf, *on his royal word only*, not to fortify the iſlands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, that King, by the ſixth article of the definitive treaty, "abſolutely *engages* not to fortify thoſe iſlands, &c. "as in the ſaid preliminary article."

IV. Inſtead of the words of the nineteenth preliminary article, by which "his Catholic "Majeſty cedes and guarantees to his Britannic Majeſty all that Spain poſſeſſes on the conti"nent of North America, to the eaſt or to the ſouth-eaſt of the river Miſſiſippi;" by the "twentieth article of the definitive treaty, "his Catholic Majeſty cedes and guarantees, in "full right, to his Britannic Majeſty, Florida, with the fort St. Auguſtine, and the bay of "Penſacola; as well as all that Spain poſſeſſes on the continent of North America, to the eaſt, "or to the ſouth-eaſt of the river Miſſiſippi; and, in general, every thing that depends on the "ſaid countries and lands, with the ſovereignty, property, and poſſeſſion, and all rights ac"quired by treaties, or otherwiſe, which the Catholic King and the crown of Spain have had, "till now, over the ſaid countries, &c. in the moſt ample manner and form, &c."

V. Inſtead of the latter part of the ninth article of the preliminaries, by which "France "cedes, in full right, and guarantees to the King of Great Britain, Senegal;" in the tenth "article of the definitive treaty it is thus expreſſed:—"His moſt Chriſtian Majeſty cedes, in "full right, and guarantees to the King of Great Britain, the river Senegal, with the forts "and factories of St. Louis, Podor, and Galam; and with all the rights and dependencies of "the ſaid river Senegal." Which forts and territories were thought ſo important by the Houſe of Commons, that, on the thirtieth of the ſaid month of March, they paſſed a vote of credit for his Majeſty to expend as far as ſeven thouſand pounds, for repairing and improving the ſame.

1763 With regard to Aſia, the eleventh article of the definitive treaty ſufficiently demonſtrates the great ſuperiority we obtained by it in the Eaſt Indies, as it neceſſarily produced a great increaſe of our Company's commerce thither, and a proportionable augmentation of the cuſtoms, as well as of our national wealth, and of the ſinking fund.

II. In Africa, our poſſeſſion of the French ſettlements on the river Senegal, afforded us the profitable command of that moſt uſeful article gum Senegal, ſo indiſpenſably neceſſary for the perfecting of many of our own manufactures: and, by the vaſt enlargement of our continental as well as inſular dominions in America, the demand for negro ſlaves from that and other parts of the African coaſt, greatly increaſed, and therewith that of our ſhipping and mariners; and alſo a proportionable, or perhaps greater augmentation of our outward-bound cargoes, conſiſting of our own various manufactures, for the purchaſe of thoſe ſlaves, &c.

III. With regard to the new acquiſitions, both from France and Spain, on the continent of North America, conſidered either in a political or commercial view, they afforded a proſpect of adding, in a pre-eminent degree, to the national proſperity.

IV. By the extenſive province of Florida, which was then yielded to us by Spain, and by the further addition of almoſt the only valuable part of Louiſiana, our empire in America was not only rendered vaſtly more extenſive, but likewiſe extremely ſecure, down from our province of Georgia ſouthward, to the Cape of Florida; and thence turning weſtward, along the great gulph or bay of Mexico, up to the mouth of the river Miſſiſippi; all which has no other frontier but the ocean: an extreme advantage to a commercial nation. But this was not all the benefit ariſing from ſuch conceſſion: for, by the advantage of the bay and harbour of Penſacola, &c. we were enabled, in time of war, to command the neighbouring ſeas and coaſts belonging to thoſe two nations; with other advantages, which are now unneceſſary to be mentioned.

V. By our treaty with Spain, we effectually eſtabliſhed our before diſputed right to the profitable benefit of our unlimitedly cutting of logwood on the ſhores of Campeachy; where we were alſo empowered to have habitations for our people, and ſtore-houſes for our goods; where alſo, in caſe of any future rupture, it would always be in our power to form a more effectual eſtabliſhment. By this important conceſſion, a great bone of contention, of near one hundred years ſtanding, was alſo moſt fortunately aboliſhed.

VI. Even with reſpect to the Weſt India iſlands, we may obſerve, that although, in order to get rid of our troubleſome neighbours on the American continent, and to obtain of them many other important advantages, in different parts of the world, it was judged expedient to reſtore the ſugar iſlands we had conquered, together with the neutral one of St. Lucia, we ſtill acquired, by the ninth article of the definitive treaty, the iſlands of Grenada and the Grenadines, and likewiſe the neutral iſles of St. Vincent, Dominica, and Tobago; with the additional and permanent benefit of for ever annihilating the name or appellation of any neutral iſle in thoſe ſeas; whereby each nation's poſſeſſions and property there are now diſtinctly aſcertained, and a final period put to ſo long a plea for altercation.

Laſtly, the effectual demolition of the impregnable part of the ſea-port of Dunkirk was now fully executed; not merely becauſe ſo ſtipulated, as it had been thrice before, but becauſe we were in poſſeſſion of what we never before effectually had,—a ſure pledge of its being duly performed.

Theſe were, without doubt, moſt ſubſtantial and important objects:—But that they were adequate to the advantages we had gained during the courſe of the war, was an opinion by no

means

1763 means unanimous throughout the kingdom; and there were not wanting perſons of the firſt talents, and the greateſt name, who decried this peace, as diſgraceful to a people, victorious in every part of the globe; and who, it was aſſerted, poſſeſſed reſources to continue the career of ſucceſs, till they had brought their enemies to their feet. But we muſt prefer narrative to ſpeculation;—it is our office to relate things as they happen, and not detail opinions as they ariſe; more particularly at a period when the eſtabliſhed freedom of the preſs, and the great increaſe of knowledge, bring every public queſtion into voluminous diſcuſſion. This work would err from its deſign, if we were to do more than ſtate thoſe facts which are appropriate to it, and recite thoſe meaſures which have proceeded from the mind of government: to review the deliberations that produced them is not our province;—it is not for us to reaſon,—but to relate.

To clear away the incumbrances of the late war, ſupplies were to be raiſed, and, of courſe, taxes to be impoſed. For theſe purpoſes it was propoſed by government,

First, To take two millions from the ſinking fund.

Secondly, To ſtrike one million eight hundred thouſand pounds in Exchequer bills.

Thirdly, To borrow two millions eight hundred thouſand pounds on annuities: and,

Fourthly, To form two lotteries, for three hundred and fifty thouſand pounds each.

To pay the intereſt on theſe loans, which, amounted, in the whole, to ſeven millions three hundred thouſand pounds, an additional duty, of eight pounds per tun, was laid upon all wines of the growth of France, and four pounds per tun on all others.

This part of the plan of ways and means was unexceptionable; but another duty was added, which furniſhed the opponents of government with a ſubject of popular outcry, and the ſucceſsful means of influencing the whole nation: this was a duty of four ſhillings per hogſhead to be laid on cyder, and to be ſubject, with ſome qualifications, to all the laws of exciſe. As this act became an object of great popular frenzy and tumult, and ſeemed to intereſt the paſſions of the people in general at the time it was agitated and paſſed, we ſhall inſert a general abſtract of it.

"That from and after the thirty-firſt day of March, 1763, the following additional duties ſhall take place, viz.

"On French wine and vinegar imported, eight pounds per tun, and all other wines and vinegar imported four pounds per tun; to be collected, levied, and paid, as expreſſed in the act of James II. or in any other act by which the duties thereby granted are made perpetual.

"Damaged and unmerchantable wines ſhall be exempted from theſe additional duties.

"The ſaid duties ſhall be under the management of the Commiſſioners of the Cuſtoms, and ſhall be paid over weekly by the Receiver-General into the Exchequer, apart from all other monies, and ſhall be entered accordingly in proper books to be provided there for that purpoſe.

"No allowance ſhall be made for leakage, but upon wines imported directly from the country or place of their growth, &c. Madeira wines from the Britiſh plantations in America excepted.

"From and after the fifth of July, 1763, an additional duty ſhall be laid on all cyder and perry: viz. on all cyder and perry imported, forty ſhillings per tun; and upon all cyder "and perry made within Great Britain, four ſhillings per hogſhead, to be paid by the maker.

"The

" The duties upon cyder and perry made in England, to be under the receipt and management of the commiſſioners and officers of exciſe there, and thoſe in Scotland under like officers there. The commiſſioners ſhall appoint a ſufficient number of officers, and the duties ſhall be paid into the Exchequer apart from all other monies.

" The makers of cyder and perry, not being compounders, ſhall enter their names, and the mills, preſſes or other utenſils, ſtore houſes and other places to be made uſe of, at the next office of exciſe, ten days before they begin to work, under the penalty of twenty-five pounds for uſing any unentered place.

" The officers of exciſe, upon requeſt made, ſhall have free acceſs, in the day time, to all places entered or made uſe of for making or keeping perry or cyder, and ſhall gauge and report the contents to the commiſſioners, leaving a copy for the maker. The duties ſhall be paid according thereto, within ſix weeks from making ſuch charge; and the uſual allowances ſhall be made in reſpect thereof.

" Perſons intending to ſell or remove any cyder or perry in their poſſeſſion made before the fifth of July, 1763, ſhall ſend a ſigned particular thereof to the next office of exciſe, ten days before the ſaid fifth of July, that the officer may take an account thereof, and grant certificates occaſionally for the removal of a like quantity without charging the duty, &c.

" No cyder or perry exceeding ſix gallons ſhall be removed, &c. without a certificate, on forfeiture thereof, with the package. Officers of the exciſe may ſeize the ſame. A time ſhall be limited, for which the certificate ſhall be in force.

" Perſons making cyder or perry to be conſumed in their own private families only, ſhall be admitted to compound for the duties, they giving in a liſt of the number in family, and paying at the rate of five ſhillings per head per annum. This compoſition to be renewed annually and the money paid down at the ſame time. The houſes, &c. of perſons who ſhall thus compound, ſhall be exempted from ſurvey or ſearch: but, upon increaſe of the family, a new liſt ſhall be given in, and five-pence per month, per head, ſhall be paid for the additional number, during the ſubſiſting unexpired term of the year. Compounders neglecting to deliver in ſuch liſts, and to pay their compoſition money, ſhall be charged with the duty, and become liable to a ſurvey. Perſons delivering falſe or defective liſts, ſhall forfeit twenty pounds.

" Children under eight years of age ſhall not be inſerted in the liſts. Compounders may ſell, diſpoſe of, or remove any cyder or perry more than ſufficient for their own uſe, giving two days notice to the proper officer, who ſhall attend, and take an account thereof, and charge the duties and report the ſame to the exciſe office, leaving a copy with the compounder. Such cyder or perry ſhall not be afterwards removed without a certificate. Compounders being guilty of any fraud, in ſelling, exchanging, or delivering out cyder or perry, ſhall forfeit twenty pounds.

" No compounder ſhall let out or lend his mill or other utenſils for making cyder or perry, without giving three days previous notice to the proper officer to attend and charge the duties; unleſs the cyder or perry be the property of another compounder, or of ſome other perſon not liable to the duty; and no part of it ſhall be removed without a certificate, under a penalty of ten pounds.

" Perſons uſing their own mills, &c. or procuring cyder or perry to be made at the mills, &c. of any other perſon, ſhall be deemed makers.

" Compounders for malt ſhall not be liable to compound or pay duties for cyder or perry, to be made and conſumed in their own families, unleſs they ſhall ſell or otherwiſe diſpoſe of any

A. D. 1763 part thereof; in which caſe, they ſhall comply with the directions given with reſpect to compounders in like circumſtances.

"Occupiers of tenements not rated above forty ſhillings per annum to the land tax, and not making more than four hogſheads of cyder and perry in the whole year, ſhall be exempted from duties or compounding.

"Theſe new duties on cyder and perry ſhall be drawn back on exportation; and upon diſtillation thereof into low wines and ſpirits; and upon the ſame being made into vinegar, and charged with duties as ſuch.

"The penalty of oppoſing an officer in the execution of his office, or of reſcuing or ſtaving any cyder or perry after any ſeizure thereof, ſhall be fifty pounds, for every ſuch offence. Informations for offences againſt this act by the makers of cyder or perry, ſhall be laid within three months after being committed; and notice thereof ſhall be given them.

"Perſons aggrieved by the judgment of any juſtice of the peace touching the duties or penalties, may appeal to the quarter ſeſſions, and the determination of the ſaid court ſhall be final.

"Appellants ſhall give notice to the other parties, and the court ſhall award coſts as they ſee fit, to be levied by diſtraint.

"For want of ſufficient time intervening, an appeal may be made to the ſecond quarter ſeſſions.

"A re-hearing ſhall be had of the merits of the caſe upon appeals; and defects of form in the original proceedings may be rectified by the court.

"All powers, rules, methods, penalties and clauſes in act xii. Car. II. or in any other act relating to the revenue of exciſe, where not altered by this act, ſhall be put into execution with reſpect to the duties on cyder and perry.

"The penalties and forfeitures relating thereto, ſhall be recovered or mitigated as by the laws of exciſe, or in the courts at Weſtminſter, or the court of Exchequer in Scotland, and ſhall be employed, half to the uſe of the King, and half to him that ſhall ſue.

"The duty on cyder and perry brought from Jerſey, Guernſey, Sark, or Alderney, ſhall be paid by the importer before landing, on penalty of being ſeized and forfeited.

"The monies ariſing by the reſpective duties granted by this act, ſhall be entered in proper books in the auditors office, ſeparately from each other and from all other monies; and ſhall be a fund for the payment of the annuities chargeable on the principal ſum of five millions borrowed on the credit of this act."

The part of this act which related the duty on cyder and perry, with the mode of collecting it, was debated with uncommon violence in both Houſes of Parliament, and a very ſtrong proteſt was entered in the journals of the Houſe of Lords againſt it. Nay, ſo general was the diſapprobation of it, that many feared the revival of that ſpirit which was raiſed by a ſcheme of exciſe in the year 1733, when not only the political but perſonal exiſtence of a great Miniſter was in imminent danger. The city of London not only inſtructed its repreſentatives in Parliament, but petitioned the different branches of the legiſlature againſt it; while ſome of the conſtant friends of adminiſtration withdrew their ſupport on this occaſion. Yet we now find that many perſons of great property and political talents are become converts to this mode of raiſing taxes, and do not heſitate to ſupport the opinion, that an extenſion of the exciſe laws merely to objects, without enlarging the power, would produce a great public benefit, by the augmentation it would occaſion in the public revenues.

The

A. D. 1763 The produce of South Carolina entered for exportation from the port of Charles-town, from the twenty-third of December 1761, the day the firſt veſſel with rice, of crop 1761, was cleared out, to the firſt of September 1762, both days incluſive.

Rice,	63,288	barrels.
Indigo,	249,000	pounds weight.
Staves,	157,880	———
Shingles,	674,740	———
Corn,	23,194	buſhels.
Peas,	3,980	barrels.
Butter,	8	kegs.
Deer ſkins,	331	hogſheads.
———	12	caſks.
	215	bundles.
———	1,043	looſe.
Pitch,	3,110	barrels.
Tar,	1,119	———
Tobacco,	14	hogſheads.
Roſin,	19	barrels.
Tanned leather,	2,693	ſides.
Tallow,	32	barrels.
Fiſh,	41	———
Timber, &c.	103,293	feet.
Oranges,	4	barrels.
Soap,	100	boxes.
Potatoes,	20	buſhels.
Laths,	3,500	
Turpentine,	751	barrels.
Beef	11	———
Bacon,	1,648	pounds weight.
Candles, myrtle wax,	14	boxes.
Oats,	388	buſhels.
Hoops,	14,500	
Reeds,	400	
Handſpikes,	360	
Furs,	1	hogſhead.
———	1	bundle.
———	2	barrels.
Pink root,	1	caſk.
Bees wax,	6	———
Hams,	5	barrels.

The following is a liſt of the prize goods taken at the Havannah:

Sugar,	5,841	cheſts.
Cocoa,	3,384	ſerons.
———	3	caſks.
Jeſuits bark,	122	ſerons.

Hides

A. D. 1763

Hide in the hair,	8,363	
Tanned hides,	3,900	
Tobacco,	475	bales.
Snuff,	4,876	ſerons.
Logwood,	59,213	pieces.
Fuſtick,	2,003	——
Timber,	78	——
Cedar planks,	8	
Cochineal,	7	ſerons.
Tortoiſeſhell,	2	caſks.

Of which, and the reſt of the plunder, the firſt diſtribution amounted to five hundred and ſixteen thouſand one hundred and eighty-five pounds three ſhillings.

It appears by the Georgia Gazette, that from the fifth of January 1762, to the fifth of January 1763, the exports of that province were,

Rice,	7,440	barrels.
——	119	half barrels.
Indigo,	9,633	pounds weight.
Deer ſkins,	96	hogſheads.
——	832	bundles.
Beaver ſkins,	13	bundles.
Pine timber,	417,449	feet.
Pork,	292	barrels.
Shingles,	688,045	
Staves and heading,	359,002	
Beef,	38	barrels.
Indian corn,	1,250	buſhels.
Rough rice,	776	——
Tar,	246	barrels.
Tanned leather,	1,602	ſides.
Hoops,	10,500	
Handſpikes,	1,050	
Bars,	2,033	

In the ſummer of this year, a very uncommon number of bankruptcies took place at Amſterdam, Hamburg, and ſeveral other principal towns in Germany. They began at Amſterdam the latter end of July, by the failure of two brothers of the name of Neuville, for between three and four hundred thouſand pounds; and that of a Jew for a very conſiderable ſum. Theſe two bankruptcies occaſioned, or at leaſt haſtened a ſtoppage of payment, by no leſs than eighteen houſes in that city: they were followed by a ſtill greater number of failures at Hamburg and other places, which gave ſuch a blow to private credit, as almoſt wholly to interrupt, for ſome time, the courſe of commercial tranſactions. But the Lombard houſes at Amſterdam and Hamburg ſtood forward on the occaſion, and, by advancing large ſums of ready money to ſuch as could give a proper ſecurity, reſtored credit to its former functions, and liberated commerce from the oppreſſions beneath which it had ſtruggled.

On this occaſion ſeveral merchants, on ſhewing their books to perſons appointed to examine them, were protected from arreſts by the magiſtrates: an exerciſe of power which had the

public

A. D. 1763 public intereſt for its object, and ſhould be adopted, both as politic and humane, by the legiſlature of every commercial country.

Various were the conjectures concerning the cauſes of theſe alarming failures. But they were chiefly attributed to the large ſums of money left unpaid by the Engliſh and French armies, and to the incapacity or indiſpoſition of ſeveral of the German Princes, to call in the baſe money which they had found themſelves obliged to iſſue, and had got into a very extenſive circulation during the courſe of the war.

The marine ſociety, with that truly patriotic ſpirit which has ever animated its exertions, not only received all thoſe boys, under ſixteen years of age, which it had ſent to ſea, who thought proper, on being diſcharged from the King's ſervice, to apply to them for aſſiſtance, but even invited them to make application to their protection and aſſiſtance. Of ſuch the ſociety put out,

To fiſhermen,	15
To mechanic trades,	71
To manufacturers,	17
To public houſes,	6
To the merchants ſervice,	29
To the King's ſea officers, who engaged to keep them for three years,	80
Sent home to their friends in Scotland and Ireland,	9
Sent home to their friends in England,	20
To Agriculture,	1
To watermen and lightermen,	9
Aſſiſted to procure maſters for themſelves,	17
Cloathed and provided for themſelves,	21
Total,	295

The Dublin ſociety, inſpired alſo by a ſimilar zeal for the public good, propoſed to the firſt hundred ſoldiers or ſailors who ſerved his Majeſty out of Great Britain or Ireland, and being honourably diſcharged from the ſervice, ſhould take leaſes of lives of any lands in the provinces of Leinſter, Munſter, and Connaught, not leſs than five or more than twenty acres, in the year 1763, and hold the ſame one year from their taking poſſeſſion of the ſaid lands, on producing a certificate of their induſtry, and being likely to continue, from the clergyman of the pariſh or two neighbouring juſtices of the peace, five pounds each.

And to the firſt ten landlords of the provinces of Leinſter, Munſter, and Connaught, who ſhould let ſuch farms to ſuch tenants as above, not leſs than five farms by each landlord, a gold medal.

The truſtees alſo for the forfeited eſtates in Scotland, were not backward in offering the ſame patriotic encouragement.

They wiſhed to reward thoſe men, who had planted the Britiſh laurel in every quarter of the globe, by affording them a comfortable retreat after all their toils, and to continue their ſervices to their country by enabling them to purſue the employments of peace.

For this moſt laudable purpoſe, they promiſed not only lands but materials for building and implements of cultivation, together with fiſhing boats, tackle, &c. and even money, to ſuch reduced ſoldiers and ſailors as ſhould ſettle on theſe eſtates. And Sir Ludowick Grant and

A. D.

1763 Mr. Grant, of Grant, invited them to ſettle on their new ground in the counties of Inverneſs, Murray and Banff, with a promiſe to let them have from five to fifteen acres of land rent free for ſeven years, paying afterwards one ſhilling per acre per annum for twelve years, with timber for building, moſs or peat ground for firing, and lime-ſtone from the quarries.

The latter end of this year, judgment was pronounced at Paris againſt ſeveral perſons who had been employed by the King of France in the government of Canada, and had been found guilty of mal-adminiſtration in the conduct of it. Theſe reſpective officers, beſides the ſentence of baniſhment, whoſe term was varied according to the nature of their offences, were, moreover, condemned to make reſtitution of ſeveral ſums in proportion to the frauds of which they had been found guilty; amounting in the whole to the ſum of thirteen millions ſix hundred and ſixty-five thouſand livres.

	Livres.
The names, employments, and fines of theſe officers are as follows:	
The Sieur Bigot, Intendant of the Province of Canada,	4,500,000
The Sieur Varin, Director of the Marine at Montreal,	800,000
M. Bread, Comptroller of the Marine,	300,000
M. Cadet, Purveyor General of the Army,	6,000,000
M. Pennifiant, M. Maurin, M. Corpion, — Commiſſioners under M. Cadet, 600,000 livres each,	1,800,000
M. Eſtabe, Keeper of the Magazines,	30,000
M. Martel, ditto,	200,000
M. Laudriere, Commandant,	5,000
M. Dechinaux, Secretary to the Intendant Bigot,	30,000
Total,	13,665,000

As ſoon as the Engliſh merchants trading to Canada, who were largely concerned in the paper money of that colony, were informed of theſe fines, they made immediate application to the Secretaries of State to obtain the fulfilling his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty's declaration, with regard to the bills of exchange, drawn by the government of Canada on that of Old France. But, as the final determination of this buſineſs between the two courts did not take place till the year 1766, we ſhall defer entering further upon the ſubject till we come to the hiſtory of that period.

	Yards.
The linen cloth ſtamped in Scotland for ſale, from the firſt of November 1761, to the firſt of November 1762, amounted to	10,303,237
The ſame, from the firſt of November 1762, to the firſt of November 1763, amounted to,	12,399,656
Which quantity exceeds that of the preceding year	2,096,419

An account of the ſums granted this year by the Iriſh Houſe of Commons, for promoting the manufactures, trade and commerce of Ireland.

To John Wetherell, for preparing and framing the intended book of rates, four hundred pounds.

A. D. 1763 For carrying on the inland navigation from Limerick to Killaloe, two thouſand five hundred pounds.

For ditto, from Iniſhannon to Dummanway, two thouſand pounds.

For ditto, from the tide water at St. Mullins, to the town of Monaſterevan, four thouſand pounds.

For ditto, from Kilkenny to Iniſteague, one thouſand five hundred pounds.

For improving Cork harbour, one thouſand five hundred pounds.

For the pier of Balgriggan, one thouſand five hundred pounds.

For carrying on the inland navigation by making the river Lagan navigable, and for opening a paſſage from Loughneagh to Belfaſt, two thouſand pounds.

For ditto, for compleating a navigation for ſhips of one hundred tons burthen, from Fathom Point, near Newry, to Drumglaſs Colliery, in the county of Tyrone, four thouſand pounds.

To St. Patrick's hoſpital, one thouſand pounds.

For Dunleary pier, one thouſand pounds.

For finiſhing an harbour at Wicklow, one thouſand pounds.

For carrying on the ballaſt office wall, four thouſand pounds.

For re-building St. John's church, Dublin, one thouſand pounds.

To Meſſrs. Colvill, Civill and Bryan, to aſſiſt them in leſſening the expence of their compleating a dry dock in the city of Dublin, one thouſand pounds.

To the Lying-in-Hoſpital, one thouſand pounds.

To the widow and children of Dr. Moſſe, five hundred pounds.

To the Incorporated Society, twelve thouſand pounds.

For carrying on the inland navigation from Dublin through the bog of Allan to the Shannon, ſix thouſand pounds.

For carrying on a whale fiſhery on the north weſt coaſt of this kingdom, one thouſand pounds.

For finiſhing St. Catherine's church, Dublin, one thouſand pounds.

For enlarging the quay at Londonderry, one thouſand ſix hundred pounds.

For carrying on the inland navigation, by making a navigable canal between the loughs Foyle and Sivilly in the county of Donegal, four thouſand pounds.

For erecting a pier at Killileagh in the county of Down, ſix hundred pounds.

For re-building John's and Green's bridges in the city of Kilkenny, and Bennet's Thomaſtown and Caſtlecomer bridges, in the county of Kilkenny, and for repairing the bridge of Eniſteage, in the ſaid county of Kilkenny, eight thouſand pounds.

To Henry Cottingham and James King to reimburſe their loſſes, occaſioned by the tumultuous proceedings of the late mobs, eight hundred pounds.

For widening the paſſage leading from Angleſea-ſtreet to College-green, three hundred and forty pounds.

To the city work-houſe, three thouſand ſeven hundred and ſeventy-one pounds.

To Hugh Boyd, Eſq; for his having made an harbour at Bally Caſtle: and for his keeping the ſaid harbour in repair for twenty-one years, three thouſand pounds.

To the Dublin Society, two thouſand pounds.

To ditto, to be applied for the encouragement of ſuch trades and manufactures, and in ſuch manner and ſubject to ſuch regulations, as ſhall be directed by Parliament, eight thouſand pounds.

B 2

For

A. D.
1763 For compleating a convenient way, ſtreet, and paſſage, from Eſſex bridge, to the caſtle of Dublin, five thouſand pounds.

For widening the paſſage leading from the Inns Quay, to Arran Quay, Dublin, one thouſand pounds.

The following general ſtate of the Land-carriage Fiſhery, as it ſtood on the thirtieth of September, in this year, according to the account of Mr. Blake, the original propoſer, and indefatigable conductor of it.

	£.	s.	d.
Capital advanced by the ſociety, — — —	2,000	0	0
Addition made by Mr. Blake at his own riſk, being borrowed of the ſociety, on transferring two thouſand pounds of three per cent. conſolidated annuities, as a ſecurity to repay ſuch loan on ſix months notice, —	1,500	0	0
A further addition by the ſuperintendant, on the thirtieth of September, 1763, being wanted to make good all payments to that time, —	235	15	7
Total,	3,735	15	7

To anſwer which ſum, there is the following ſtock in hand of materials:—

	£.	s.	d.
Ninety machines, which, with the neceſſary alterations and improvements, coſt — — — — —	2,584	12	6
Fitting up a receptacle office, and ſundry ſhops, —	914	9	7
Seven horſes, to carry the fiſh to market, with harneſs and ſadlery,	160	3	9
Baſkets for the machines, markets, &c. — —	129	14	3
Scales and weights for receptacle ſhops and ſea-ports, —	48	15	4
Coſt of a well-boat, and fitting up the ſame, — —	146	3	0
A compleat ſet of turbot-lines, and other apparatus for two ſmacks of ſixty tons each, — — — —	50	19	6
A water-cart and tubs for the receptacle, and a large lanthorn erected at Lyme Cob, as a guide to the fiſhing boats on that coaſt, —	28	3	9
Total,	4,063	1	9

Beſides ſundry other utenſils in the ſhops and receptacles.

Thus it appears, ſays Mr. Blake, that there is a ſtock in hand amounting to four thouſand and fifty-three pounds one ſhilling and eight-pence, to anſwer the capital of three thouſand ſeven hundred and thirty-five pounds fifteen ſhillings and ſeven-pence; and to carry on the undertaking, in caſe the public ſhould be diſpoſed to encourage and aſſiſt the proſecution thereof by a further aid. And in regard to any objections which may be made, that the above ſtock, on account of its being uſed, would, if it were to be ſold, fall far ſhort of its prime coſt; which, it muſt be allowed, will always be the caſe whenever a buſineſs is dropped ſo ſoon after its commencement, (and, in this particular circumſtance, it is probable would not produce ſufficient to reimburſe the ſuperintendant the monies he has advanced) it may not be improper to obſerve, that the alteration and improvements in the machines, which were found neceſſary, have put them in a better ſtate than when they were firſt made.—Hence there is the greateſt reaſon to believe, that by an additional aid, this undertaking may be carried on in a more enlarged manner, and to the additional benefit of the public; who could not expect that the ſuperintendant, with two thouſand pounds, ſhould feed the multitudes in this metropolis,

A. D.
1763 when it is well known that the ſales at Billingſgate, in the courſe of a year, amount to between two and three hundred thouſand pounds. But, nevertheleſs, he has brought upwards of two hundred tons of fiſh from diſtant parts of the ſea-coaſts, which has produced nineteen thouſand ſix hundred and forty-one pounds nineteen ſhillings and nine-pence halfpenny: and if it is allowed, as in juſtice it ought, that ſuch fiſh has been ſold at leſs than half the former uſual prices, the public will find they have gained an advantage of nearly twenty thouſand pounds from this undertaking, beſides the effect it has had on the general ſale of fiſh, which is probably equal to more than double the above ſum; from whence the ſuperintendant preſumes to think, that his endeavours have benefited the public to the amount of fifty or ſixty thouſand pounds.

That this patriotic ſcheme of the Land-carriage Fiſhery, ſhould meet with the moſt ſtrenuous and artful oppoſition from a body of men whoſe wealth flowed from the monopoly it was intended to deſtroy, was a natural expectation; but that the public ſhould ſuffer a plan which promiſed ſuch very extenſive and ſolid advantages to the inhabitants of London to become abortive, is an equal matter for wonder and lamentation: but ſo it was;—the body of fiſhmongers made their well known opulence the engine of carrying on their deſigns, and, in the end, triumphed over one of the moſt beneficial and practicable projects that the patriotic zeal of a private individual ever ſuggeſted.

If it were the practice of this country, as it was of ancient Rome, to beſtow a civic crown on thoſe citizens, who by inventions or meaſures of public utility, have promoted the public welfare,—Mr. Blake would have been found worthy of that diſtinguiſhing reward. It becomes us, however, to record his name with all the honour which this page can beſtow upon him, for his public humanity in ſuggeſting, as well as for the diſintereſted and indefatigable zeal with which he ſuperintended the ſcheme of ſupplying the city of London and its environs with fiſh by land-carriage.

As a curious article of information, and, as we conceive, perfectly appropriate to this work, we ſhall give an account of the ſale, charges, and nett proceeds of the La Hermoine, a Spaniſh regiſter-ſhip, condemned in the high court of Admiralty of Great Britain, on the fourteenth of September, 1762.

	£.	s.	d.
By the ſale of five hundred and fifty bags of dollars to ſundries, containing four hundred and ſeventy-ſix thouſand five hundred and eighteen ounces, at ſixty-three pence halfpenny, — — —	126,078	14	3
By thirteen hundred and forty-ſix bags of dollars to ſundries, weighing one million one hundred and ſixty-five thouſand ſix hundred and fifty-two ounces, at ſixty-three pence,	305,983	13	0
October 11.—By twenty-eight bags of gold coin to the Bank of England, weighing twenty-two thouſand nine hundred and ſeventy-four ounces three pennyweights and eighteen grains, at ſeventy-eight ſhillings and ſix-pence, —	90,173	13	8
Carried forward,	522,236	0	11

A. D.
1763

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Brought over,				522,236	0	11
By four ingots of gold, at their various aſſays, rendered ſix hundred and twenty-one ounces one pennyweight fourteen grains ſtandard, at ſeventy-eight ſhillings and ſix-pence,	2,437	14	8			
By one ditto, as above, weighing eleven ounces fifteen pennyweights nine grains, at ſeventy-nine ſhillings,	46	11	3			
				2,484	5	11
By thirty-four ingots of ſilver, as above, rendered eighteen thouſand eight hundred and ſixty-three ounces three grains ſtandard, at ſixty-four pence, —	5,030	3	5			
By three ditto, as above, weighing five hundred and twenty-ſeven ounces one grain, at ſixty-five pence, —	142	14	10			
				5,172	18	3
By ſix ounces ſix pennyweights two grains of fine gold, in two ingots, at eighty-ſix ſhillings, —	27	5	3			
Deduct expences of parting four hundred and forty-five ounces of gilt ſilver, at four-pence, —	7	8	4			
				19	16	11
By ſundry trinkets, &c. ſold to ſundries, for —				424	7	7
October 7.—By four hundred and twenty-ſeven ſerons, and three hundred and ſix bags of Guiquil cocoa, ſold at Garraway's Coffee-houſe, by public ſale, in ſixty lots, weighing together, nett one thouſand and twenty-nine hundred-weight ſix pounds, at various prices, from one hundred and one ſhillings to one hundred and nine ſhillings per cwt.	5,371	19	2			
Diſcount, two and a half per cent. —	134	6	4			
				5,237	12	10
November 11.—By one thouſand one hundred and thirty-nine blocks of tin, ſold this day, as above, in thirty-nine lots, to ſundries, weighing nett one thouſand and ſixty-five hundred-weight one quarter ſeventeen pounds, at various prices, from ninety-two ſhillings to one hundred ſhillings per hundred-weight, and produced —	5,168	0	9			
Diſcount, two per cent. — —	129	4	0			
				5,038	16	9
By eight bales of Vigonia, and one ditto of Alpagna wool, ſold at a public ſale, in nine lots, to ſundries, weighing nett five hundred and forty-five pounds, from three ſhillings and one halfpenny, to ſeven ſhillings and four-pence per pound,	141	8	0			
By nine bolts of canvas, ſold as above, at thirty ſhillings,	13	10	0			
By one caſe of ſaddle-cloths, ditto, —		10	0			
	155	8	0			
Diſcount, two and a half per cent. —	3	17	8	151	10	4
Carried forward,				540,765	9	6

A. D.
1763

		£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Brought over,			540,765 9 6
By ſixty-one barrels of gunpowder, weighing thirty-four hundred-weight, at ſixty ſhillings, — —			102 0 0
By a launch belonging to the ſhip, ſold by Thomas Mayne and Co. at Gibraltar, for fifty-one piſtereens and one-ſixth, at forty-pence each, — —			8 10 6
March 4, 1763.—By the ſhip Hermoine, with all her tackle, apparel, and furniture, guns, ſtores, &c. ſold this day at public ſale, for — —			3,010 0 0
May 16.—By a bounty bill for one hundred and fifty men, dated January 1763, at five pounds each, is —		825 0 0	
Deduct, ſold at ſeven per cent. diſcount,	£. 61 17 6		
Brokerage, one-half per cent.	1 1 0		
		62 18 6	
			762 1 6
Total amount,			544,648 1 6
C H A R G E S.			
For freight of the treaſure from Gibraltar, —		5,303 6 0	
For duties paid on the cargo at the Cuſtom-houſe, with officers fees, and amount of the ſubſidy 1747, on the cocoa not drawn back — — —		3,030 6 0	
For brokerage paid on ſelling the treaſure, cargo, and ſhip,		747 5 0	
For all charges of lighterage, landing, wharfage, and warehouſe rent, &c. on the cargo, &c. expences paid on the ſhip in Gibraltar and England, and all other contingent expences whatſoever, — —		1,685 4 6	
For commiſſion on the gold and ſilver coin, — —	£. 13,055 18 0		
For ditto on remaining produce of this prize, — —	1,120 12 0		
		14,176 10 0	
			24,942 11 6
Nett proceeds,			519,705 10 0
Distribution *of the foregoing Nett Proceeds*, viz.			
To the admiral and commodore, — —			64,963 3 9
Active's Share.			
To the captain, — —			65,053 13 9
To three commiſſioned officers, at —	£. 13,004 14 1 each		39,014 2 3
To eight warrant ditto, — —	4,336 3 2 ——		34,689 5 4
To twenty petty ditto, — —	1,806 10 10 ——		36,130 17 8
To one hundred and fifty-eight ſeamen, &c.	485 5 4¾ ——		76,132 13 0
Carried forward,			315,983 15 9

A. D. 1763

					£.	s.	d.
Brought over,					315,983	15	9

Favourite's Share.

					£.	s.	d.
To the captain, — —					64,872	13	9
To two commiſſioned officers, at —	£. 12,974	10	9	each	25,949	1	6
To ſeven warrant ditto, — —	4,324	16	11	—	30,273	8	5
To ſixteen petty ditto, — —	1,802	0	4	—	28,832	6	3
To one hundred and ten ſeamen, &c. —	484	2	5	—	53,253	14	4
					£. 519,705	10	0

The Active being entitled to the whole bounty money, occaſions the difference in the ſhares between the two ſhips.

At this period, a recapitulation of the different annual ſupplies which have been granted by Parliament, to ſupport the ſeveral wars that have been carried on ſince the Revolution, will, we truſt, be conſidered as an article of neceſſary and connecting information.

King William III.

	Annual Supply. £.	*Medium per Ann.* £.
1693	4,017,079	5,105,505
1694	5,539,087	
1695	5,036,430	
1696	5,539,853	
1697	5,395,078	
Total,	25,527,527	

Queen Anne.

	£.	
1702	3,551,459	5,369,621
1703	3,535,457	
1704	4,005,369	
1705	4,570,488	
1706	5,075,761	
1707	5,942,381	
1708	5,926,849	
1709	6,563,138	
1710	6,425,268	
1711	6,789,169	
1712	6,680,495	
Total,	59,065,834	

King George II.

	Annual Supply. £.	*Medium per Ann.* £
1740	3,874,076	6,651,013
1741	5,006,039	
1742	5,723,537	
1743	5,912,383	
1744	6,243,538	
1745	6,562,902	
1746	7,088,354	
1747	9,389,196	
1748	10,059,094	
Total,	59,859,119	

K. George II. and III.

	£.	
1756	7,229,117	13,229,376
1757	8,350,320	
1758	10,486,457	
1759	12,761,310	
1760	15,503,563	
1761	19,619,119	
1762	18,655,750	
Total,	92,605,636	

Supplies

SUPPLIES *granted by Parliament for the Service of the Year* 1763.

A. D.		£.	s.	d.
	DECEMBER 2.			
1763	I. That thirty thouſand men be employed for the ſea ſervice for 1763, including four thouſand two hundred and eighty-ſeven mariners.			
	II. That a ſum not exceeding four pounds per man per month, be allowed for maintaining them, for thirteen months, including ordnance for ſea ſervice, — — —	1,560,000	0	0
	FEBRUARY 3.			
	For defraying the extraordinary expences of his Majeſty's land forces, and other ſervices incurred, from the twenty-fifth of December 1761, to the thirty-firſt of October 1762, both days incluſive, and not provided for by Parliament, — — —	1,588,756	15	5
	I. For the ordinary of the navy, including half pay to ſea and marine officers for 1763, — — — —	380,661	3	11
	II. For compleating the works of the hoſpitals for ſick and wounded ſeamen, building near Plymouth, — — —	3,000	0	0
	III. Upon account, to be applied by the commiſſioners, or governors, of Greenwich Hoſpital, for the ſupport and relief of ſeamen, worn out, and become decrepit in the ſervice of their country, who ſhall not be provided for within the ſaid hoſpital, — —	10,000	0	0
	IV. That proviſion be made, for enabling his Majeſty to ſatisfy all the bills payable in courſe of the navy and victualling offices, and for tranſports, which were made out on, or before, the thirty-firſt of December 1762, amounting to the ſum of — —	3,075,316	0	3
	FEBRUARY 14.			
	That proviſions be made for enabling his Majeſty to ſatisfy all the debentures, payable out of his Majeſty's office of ordnance, which were dated on, or before, the thirty-firſt of December laſt, and remain undiſcharged, amounting to the ſum of — — —	595,423	2	5
	FEBRUARY 17.			
	Towards enabling the commiſſioners for putting in execution, an act made in the laſt ſeſſion of Parliament, entitled, An Act for paving Weſtminſter Streets, &c. more effectually to perform the truſts repoſed in them, — — — — —	5,000	0	0
	FEBRUARY 24.			
	I. To enable his Majeſty to diſcharge the like ſum, raiſed in purſuance of an act made in the laſt ſeſſion of Parliament, and charged upon the firſt aids or ſupplies to be granted in this ſeſſion, —	1,000,000	0	0
	Carried over	1,000,000	0	0

	£.	s.	d.
Brought over,	1,000,000	0	0
II. Towards the buildings, rebuildings, and repairs of his Majeſty's ſhips for 1763, — — — —	100,000	0	0
	1,100,000	0	0

FEBRUARY 28.

	£.	s.	d.
For defraying the extraordinary expence of his Majeſty's land forces, and other ſervices incurred, from the firſt of November 1762, to the nineteenth of February 1763, and not provided for by Parliament,	951,249	0	6

MARCH 1.

	£.	s.	d.
For defraying the charge of two thouſand one hundred and twenty horſe, and nine thouſand nine hundred foot, together with the general and ſtaff officers, the officers of the hoſpital, and officers and others belonging to the train of artillery, the troops of the Landgrave of Heſſe Caſſel, in the pay of Great Britain, for ninety days, from the twenty-fifth of December 1762, to the twenty-fourth of March 1763, both days incluſive, together with the ſubſidies, purſuant to treaty, —	85,158	14	$8\frac{3}{7}$
II. For defraying the charge of an additional corps of nine hundred and twenty horſe and ſix thouſand and ſeventy-two foot, together with the general and ſtaff officers, the officers of the hoſpital, and officers and others belonging to the train of artillery, the troops of the Landgrave of Heſſe Caſſel, in the pay of Great Britain, for three hundred and twenty-eight days, from the firſt of January 1763, to the twenty-fourth of November following, both days incluſive, purſuant to treaty, —	87,690	18	$6\frac{4}{7}$
III. For defraying the charge of an augmentation to the troops of the Landgrave of Heſſe Caſſel, in the pay of Great Britain, conſiſting of ſix hundred and fifty-ſix horſe, and two thouſand ſeven hundred and thirty-ſix foot, for three hundred and thirty-five days, from the twenty-fifth of December 1762, to the twenty-fourth of November 1763, both days incluſive, purſuant to treaty, — — —	45,420	16	$6\frac{3}{7}$
IV. For defraying the charge of one thouſand four hundred and forty-four cavalry, and two thouſand three hundred and thirty infantry, the troops of the reigning Duke of Brunſwick, in the pay of Great Britain, for eighty-ſix days, from the twenty-fifth of December 1762, to the twentieth of March 1763, both days incluſive, together with the ſubſidies for the ſaid time, purſuant to treaties, — —	49,308	1	$1\frac{3}{11}$
V. To make good a deficiency in the ſum voted laſt ſeſſion, for the pay of an augmentation of the troops of the reigning Duke of Brunſwick, for 1762, — — — —	4,328	8	5
VI. For the charge of the office of ordnance for land ſervice, for 1763,	204,329	0	0
	476,235	19	$3\frac{54}{77}$

MARCH

A. D. 1763

MARCH 7.

	£.	s.	d.
I. To enable his Majeſty to pay off, and diſcharge, the Exchequer bills made out by virtue of an act of laſt ſeſſion, entitled, An Act for enabling his Majeſty to raiſe a certain Sum, &c. and charged upon the firſt aids, or ſupplies, to be granted in this ſeſſion, —	1,500,000	0	0
II. For defraying the charge of fifty-ſix thouſand three hundred and ſixty effective men, for guards and garriſons, and other his Majeſty's land forces in Great Britain, Guernſey, and Jerſey, including thoſe in Germany, Portugal, and Belleiſle, for one hundred and twenty-one days, from the twenty-fifth of December 1762, to the twenty-fourth of April 1763, both days incluſive, according to their preſent eſtabliſhment, and for reducing their numbers, — — —	485,317	2	10
III. For maintaining his Majeſty's forts and garriſons in the Plantations, Gibraltar, Gaudeloupe, Africa, Martinico, and the Havannah, and for proviſions for the garriſons in Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Gibraltar, Providence, Quebec, Gaudeloupe, Senegal, and Goree, for one hundred and twenty-one days, from the twenty-fifth of December 1762, to the twenty-fourth of April 1763, both days incluſive, according to their preſent eſtabliſhment, and for reducing their numbers,	278,893	11	0
IV. For defraying the charge of four regiments of foot, ſerving in the Eaſt Indies, for three hundred and ſixty-five days, from the twenty-fifth of December 1762, to the twenty-fifth of December 1763, both days incluſive, — — — —	71,381	16	8
V. For defraying the charge of two regiments of horſe, ſerving in Germany, and four regiments of foot, ſerving in North America, on the Iriſh eſtabliſhment, for one hundred and twenty-one days, from the twenty-fifth of December 1762, to the twenty-fourth of April 1763, both days incluſive, — — — —	16,438	7	0
VI. For the pay of the general and general ſtaff officers, in Great Britain, for 1763, — — — —	11,291	8	6½
VII. That a number of land forces, including two thouſand ſeven hundred and forty-three invalids, amounting to ſeventeen thouſand five hundred and twenty-ſix effective men, commiſſioned and non-commiſſioned officers included, be employed for 1763.			
VIII. For defraying the charge of the ſaid number of land forces in Great Britain, Guernſey and Jerſey, from the twenty-fifth of April 1763, to the twenty-fourth of December following, both days incluſive, being two hundred and forty-four days, — — —	408,372	13	4
IX. For maintaining his Majeſty's forces and garriſons in the Plantations, including thoſe in garriſon at Minorca and Gibraltar, and for proviſions for the garriſons in Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Gibraltar, Quebec, and Senegal, for two hundred and forty-four days, from the			
Carried over,	2,771,694	19	4½

twenty-

	£.	s.	d.
Brought over,	2,771,794	19	$4\frac{1}{2}$
twenty-fifth of April 1763, to the twenty-fourth of December following, both days incluſive, — — — —	281,781	3	6
	3,053,476	2	$10\frac{1}{2}$
MARCH 10.			
For defraying the charge of the pay and cloathing of the militia, for one year, beginning the twenty-fifth of March 1763, —	150,000	0	0
MARCH 15.			
I. To enable his Majeſty to compleat the payment of two hundred and twenty thouſand pounds, as a reaſonable ſuccour in money, to the Landgrave of Heſſe Caſſel, purſuant to treaty, — —	50,000	0	0
II. To make good the deficiency of the half-ſubſidies of tonnage and poundage, charged with the payment of ſeveral annuities, by the acts made in the ſixth of Queen Anne, and the ſixth of King George I. to ſatisfy all annuities charged thereupon, to the fifth of January 1763,	49,558	1	6
III. To replace to the ſinking fund the like ſum paid out of the ſame, to make good the deficiency on the fifth of July 1762, of the ſeveral rates and duties upon offices and penſions, and upon houſes, and upon windows or lights, which were made a fund by an act of the thirty-firſt of George II. for paying annuities at the Bank of England, in reſpect of five millions borrowed toward the ſupply for 1758, —	48,891	14	11
IV. To replace to the ſinking fund the like ſum paid out of the ſame, to make good the deficiency on the fifth of January 1762, of the additional duty upon ſtrong beer and ale, to anſwer and pay the ſeveral annuities of three pounds per cent. and one pound two ſhillings and ſixpence per cent. on one million one hundred and forty thouſand pounds, part of twelve millions borrowed towards the ſupply granted by an act of the firſt of George III. for 1761, — — —	26,710	0	0
V. Upon account, towards enabling the governors and guardians of the Foundling Hoſpital, to maintain and educate ſuch children as were received into the ſaid Hoſpital, on, or before the twenty-fifth of March 1760, from the thirty-firſt of December 1762, excluſive, to the thirty-firſt of December incluſive, and that the ſaid ſum be iſſued and paid for the uſe of the ſaid Hoſpital, without fee or reward, or any deduction whatſoever, — — — —	40,050	0	0
VI. Upon account for defraying the charges incurred, by ſupporting and maintaining the ſettlement of Nova Scotia in 1760, and not provided for by Parliament, — — — —	4,589	13	$11\frac{1}{4}$
VII. Upon account, for maintaining and ſupporting the civil eſtabliſhment of Nova Scotia for 1763, — —	5,674	1	10
Carried over,	225,473	12	$2\frac{1}{4}$

VIII. Upon

	£.	s.	d.
Brought over,	225,473	12	2¼
VIII. Upon account, for defraying the charges of the civil eſtabliſhment of Georgia, and other incidental expences attending the ſame, from the twenty-fourth of June 1762, to the twenty-fourth of June 1763,	4,136	0	0
	229,609	12	2¼
MARCH 17.			
I. Upon account, to enable his Majeſty to give a proper compenſation to the reſpective provinces in North America, for the expences incurred by them in the levying, cloathing, and pay, of the troops raiſed by the ſame, according as the active vigour, and ſtrenuous efforts, of the reſpective provinces ſhall be thought, by his Majeſty, to merit,	133,333	6	8
II. To make good the deficiency of the grants for 1762 —	7,151	9	1¼
III. To be employed in maintaining and ſupporting the fort at Anamaboo, and the other Britiſh forts and ſettlements upon the coaſt of Africa, — — — — —	13,000	0	0
IV. For the paying of penſions to the widows of ſuch reduced officers of the land forces and marines, as died upon the eſtabliſhment of half pay in Great Britain, and who were married to them before the twenty-fifth of December 1716, for 1763, — — —	1,742	0	0
V. Upon account of the reduced officers of his Majeſty's land forces and marines, for 1763, — — —	33,351	17	6
VI. Upon account of the reduced officers of his Majeſty's land forces already diſbanded, and ſuch as are to be diſbanded, for 1763,	88,704	3	4
VII. For defraying the charge for allowances to the ſeveral officers and private gentlemen of the two troops of horſe guards, and regiment of horſe reduced, and to the ſuperannuated gentlemen of the four troops of horſe guards, for 1763, — — —	2,910	1	8
VIII. To be paid as a reward to John Harriſon, upon a proper diſcovery to be made by him, for the uſe of the public, of the principles upon which his inſtrument, for meaſuring time at ſea, is conſtructed, and that the ſaid ſum be applied for the purpoſe aforeſaid, out of any money unapplied to the uſe of the navy, in the hands of the Treaſurer of the navy, — — — —	5,000	0	0
	285,192	18	3¼
MARCH 19.			
I. To make good to his Majeſty the like ſum which has been iſſued by his Majeſty's orders, in purſuance of the addreſſes of this Houſe,	6,410	5	0¾
II. Upon account, for out-penſioners of Chelſea Hoſpital, 1763,	51,708	13	4
	58,118	19	2¾
Sum total of the ſupplies granted in this ſeſſion, —	13,522,039	14	4½

2

And

A. D. 1763 And in order to provide for this large ſum of money, the following reſolutions of the committee of ways and means were agreed to by the Houſe on the days as follow. £. s. d.

DECEMBER 4.

That towards raiſing the ſupply granted to his Majeſty, the duties on malt, &c. be further continued from the twenty-third of June 1763, to the twenty-fourth of June 1764, — — 750,000 0 0

DECEMBER 9.

That a land tax of four ſhillings in the pound be raiſed, in the uſual manner, for one year, from the twenty-fifth of March 1763, 2,037,854 19 11

FEBRUARY 7.

That all perſons intereſted in, or entitled unto, any bills, payable in courſe of the navy, or victualling offices, or for tranſports, which were made out on, or before, the thirty-firſt day of December laſt, who ſhall, on, or before the twenty-fifth day of March next, carry the ſame (after having had the intereſt due thereupon computed, and marked upon the ſaid bills, at the navy or victualling office reſpectively) to the Treaſurer of his Majeſty's navy, to be marked and certified by him or his paymaſter and caſhiers, to the Governor and Company of the Bank of England, ſhall be entitled unto, and have, an annuity, transferable at the Bank of England, for the principal and intereſt due on the bills, after the rate of four pounds per cent. per annum, to commence from the twenty-fifth day of March next, payable half yearly, in lieu of all other intereſt, until redeemed by Parliament, the ſaid annuities to be charged upon the ſinking fund, and the ſums, which ſhall be iſſued out of the ſinking fund, for payment of the ſaid annuities, to be from time to time replaced out of the next aids to be granted by Parliament, — 3,468,977 3 2

FEBRUARY 17.

That all perſons intereſted in, or entitled unto, any debentures payable out of his Majeſty's office of ordnance, which were dated on, or before the thirty-firſt day of December laſt, who ſhall, on, or before, the twenty-fifth day of March next, carry the ſame to the Treaſurer of his Majeſty's ordnance, to be certified by him, or his deputy or caſhier, to the Governor and Company of the Bank of England, ſhall be entitled unto, and have, an annuity transferable at the Bank of England, for the ſums due on the ſaid debentures, after the rate of four pounds per cent. per annum, to commence from the twenty-fifth day of March next, payable half yearly until redeemed by Parliament, the ſaid annuities to be charged upon the ſinking fund, and the ſums which ſhall be iſſued out of the ſinking fund for payment of the ſaid annuities, to be, from time to time, replaced out of the next aids to be granted by Parliament, 595,423 2 5

MARCH 8. £. s. d.

I. That there be raiſed in manner following: that is to ſay, the ſum of two millions eight hundred thouſand pounds by annuities, after the rate of four pounds per cent. per annum, transferable at the Bank of England, and redeemable by Parliament, and the ſum of ſeven hundred thouſand pounds by two lotteries, to be drawn at different times in the year 1763, each lottery to conſiſt of thirty-five thouſand tickets, and every blank to be of the value of five pounds, the blanks and prizes to be attended with the like four per cent. transferable and redeemable annuities, the ſaid ſeveral annuities to commence from the fifth day of April 1763, and to be payable half yearly on the tenth day of October, and the fifth day of April in every year, and that every contributor towards the ſaid ſum of two millions eight hundred thouſand pounds, ſhall, for every eighty pounds ſo contributed, be entitled to receive a ticket in each of the ſaid lotteries, upon the payment of ten pounds for each ticket; and that every contributor ſhall, on, or before, the fifteenth day of this inſtant March, make a depoſit with the caſhiers of the Bank of England, of twelve pounds ten ſhillings per cent. in part of the ſum or ſums to be contributed by him towards the ſaid ſum of two millions eight hundred thouſand pounds, and alſo a depoſit of ten pounds per cent. in part of the monies to be contributed by him in reſpect of each lottery, as a ſecurity for making the future payments reſpectively, on or before the times herein after limited: that is to ſay,

On the two millions eight hundred thouſand pounds.

Twelve pounds ten ſhillings per cent. on, or before, the tenth day of May next.

Twelve pounds ten ſhillings per cent. on, or before, the ſixteenth day of June next.

Twelve pounds ten ſhillings per cent. on, or before, the twenty-firſt day of July next.

Twelve pounds ten ſhillings per cent. on, or before, the thirtieth day of Auguſt next.

Twelve pounds ten ſhillings per cent. on, or before, the twenty-ſeventh day of September next.

Twelve pounds ten ſhillings per cent. on, or before, the twenty-firſt day of October next.

Twelve pounds ten ſhillings per cent. on, or before, the twenty-fourth day of November next.

On the lotteries for ſeven hundred thouſand pounds.

Ninety pounds per cent. on, or before, the thirty firſt day of April next, for compleating the payment upon the firſt lottery.

Ninety pounds per cent. on, or before, the eleventh day of October next, for compleating the payment upon the ſecond lottery.

Which ſeveral ſums ſo received, ſhall, by the ſaid caſhiers, be paid into the receipt of his Majeſty's exchequer, to be applied, from time to

time,

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£. s. d.

time, to ſuch ſervices as ſhall then have been voted by this Houſe, in this ſeſſion of Parliament, and not otherwiſe; and, that every contributor, who ſhall pay in the whole of his contribution on account of his ſhare in the annuities attending the ſaid ſum of two millions eight hundred thouſand pounds, at any time, on, or before, the eighteenth day of October next, or on account of his ſhare in the firſt lottery, on, or before, the twentieth day of April next, or on account of his ſhare in the ſecond lottery, on, or before, the tenth day of October next, ſhall be allowed a diſcount after the rate of three pounds per cent. per annum, on the ſum ſo completing his contribution reſpectively, to be computed from the day of compleating ſuch contribution, to the twenty-fourth day of November next, in reſpect of the ſum paid on account of the firſt mentioned annuities, and to the twenty-firſt day of April next, in reſpect of the ſum paid on account of the firſt lottery; and to the eleventh day of October next, in reſpect of the ſum paid on account of the ſecond lottery, 3,500,000 0 0

II. That an additional duty of eight pounds per ton be laid upon all French wines, which ſhall be imported into this kingdom.

III. That the ſaid annuities and lotteries be charged upon the ſaid additional duties upon wine, for which the ſinking fund ſhall be the collateral ſecurity.

MARCH 14.

I. That a duty of four ſhillings per hogſhead be laid upon all cyder and perry made within this kingdom, over and above all other duties now payable for cyder or perry, to be paid by the maker thereof.

II. That a duty of two pounds per ton be laid upon all cyder and perry imported into this kingdom.

III. That the ſaid duties upon cyder and perry be charged, together with the duties upon wines granted in this ſeſſion, with the payment of the annuities mentioned in a reſolution of this Houſe, of the eighth of this inſtant March.

MARCH 19.

I. That there be iſſued and applied out of ſuch monies as ſhall or may ariſe of the ſurpluſſes, exceſſes, or overplus monies, and other revenues, compoſing the ſinking fund, the ſum of — — 2,000,000 0 0

II. That there be iſſued and applied the money remaining in the receipt of the Exchequer, being the ſurplus of the ſeveral duties upon beer and ale, granted by an act of the firſt of his Majeſty's reign, after ſatisfying all charges and incumbrances thereupon, to the fifth of January 1763, amounting to the ſum of — — — 47,120 9 6

III. That there be iſſued and applied ſuch part of the ſum of twenty thouſand pounds, granted to his Majeſty in the laſt ſeſſion, upon account,

Carried over, 247,120 9 6

towards

A. D.

1763

	£.	s.	d.
Brought over,	2,047,120	9	6
towards defraying the charge of the pay of the militia of that part of Great Britain called England, when unembodied, and of the cloathing of the part of the ſaid militia then unembodied, for one year, beginning the twenty-fifth of March 1762, as ſhall remain in the receipt of the Exchequer, after the ſaid charges are ſatisfied.			
IV. That there be raiſed by loans or exchequer bills to be charged upon the firſt aids to be granted in the next ſeſſion; and ſuch exchequer bills, if not diſcharged, with intereſt thereupon, on, or before the fifth of April 1764, to be exchanged, and received in payment in ſuch manner as exchequer bills have uſually been exchanged and received in payment,	1,800,000	0	0
	3,847,120	9	6

That an act, made in the ſixth year of his late Majeſty King George II. entitled, An Act for the better ſecuring and encouraging the Trade to his Majeſty's Sugar Colonies in America; which was to continue in force for five years, to be computed from the twenty-fourth day of June 1733, and to the end of the then next ſeſſion of Parliament, and which, by ſeveral ſubſequent acts, made in the eleventh, nineteenth, twenty-ſixth, twenty-ninth, and thirty-firſt years of the reign of his ſaid late Majeſty, and an act, made in the firſt year of the reign of his preſent Majeſty, was further continued until the twenty-ninth day of September 1763, and from thence to the end of the then next ſeſſion of Parliament, be further continued, with amendments, until the twenty-ninth of September 1764, and from thence to the end of the then next ſeſſion of Parliament.

That an act, made in the twenty-firſt year of the reign of his late Majeſty King George II. entitled, An Act for encouraging the making of Indigo in the Britiſh plantations in America; which was to continue in force for ſeven years, from the twenty-fifth of March 1749, and from thence to the end of the then next ſeſſion of Parliament, and which, by an act, made in the twenty-eighth year of the reign of his ſaid late Majeſty, was further continued until the twenty-fifth of March 1763, and from thence to the end of the then next ſeſſion of Parliament, be further continued, with amendments, until the twenty-fifth of March 1770, and from thence to the end of the then next ſeſſion of Parliament.

	£.	s.	d.
Total ſum provided for by this ſeſſion,	14,199,375	16	0
Proviſions exceed the grants in the ſum of	577,335	1	7½

Beſides what may ariſe from the ſaid third reſolution of the committee of ways and means agreed to on the nineteenth of March; therefore ſome of the grants, or proviſions, made by this ſeſſion, muſt be extremely deficient, if it ſhould be found neceſſary hereafter to grant any thing for making good the deficiency of the grants for 1763.

A. D. 1763 The debt of his Majeſty's navy, as it ſtood on the thirty-firſt of December, 1762, was as follows, viz.

		£.	s.	d.
Wear and tear, ordinary and tranſports, — —		3,034,394	1	5
Seamens wages, — — —		3,223,297	15	2
Victualling debt, — — — —		1,329,321	9	3
Sick and wounded, &c. — — —		113,628	15	5
Total,		7,700,642	1	3
From whence deducting the money in the treaſurer's hands, — —	503,616 15 3½	1,771,517	6	1½
As alſo the money that remained to come in of the ſupplies of the year, — —	1,267,900 10 10			
The debt will then be,		5,929,124	15	1½

An account of all the public debts, at the receipt of the Exchequer, ſtanding out at the fifth of January, 1763, with the annual intereſt or other charges payable for the ſame.

EXCHEQUER.	*Principal debt.*			*Annual intereſt,* &c.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Annuities for long terms, being the remainder of the original ſum contributed and unſubſcribed to the South Sea Company, — —	1,836,275	17	10¾	136,453	12	8
Ditto for two lives, with the benefit of ſurvivorſhip, being the original ſum contributed,	108,100	0	0	7,567	0	0
Ditto for two and three lives, being the ſum remaining after what is fallen in by deaths,	75,505	14	10¾	9,155	12	0
Exchequer bills made out for intereſt of old debts,	2,200	0	0			
Note,—The land taxes and duties on malt, being annual grants, are not charged in this account, nor the one million charged on the deductions of ſix-pence per pound on penſions, nor the one million five hundred thouſand pounds towards paying off the navy debt, &c. in 1762, nor the ſum of one million charged on the ſupplies of the year 1763.						
EAST INDIA COMPANY.						
By two acts of Parliament, of the ninth of William III. and two other acts of the ſixth and ninth of Anne, at three pounds per cent. per annum,	3,200,000	0	0	97,285	14	4
Annuities at three pounds per cent. of 1744, charged on the ſurplus of the additional duties on low wines, ſpirits, and ſtrong waters,	1,000,000	0	0	30,401	15	8
Carried forward,	6,222,081	12	9½	280,863	14	8

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		Principal debt.	*Annual intereſt, &c.*
Brought over,		£.6,222,081 12 9½	280,863 14 8
BANK OF ENGLAND.			
On their original fund at three pounds per cent. from the firſt of Auguſt, 1743, —		3,200,000 0 0	100,000 0 0
For cancelling Exchequer bills of the third of George I. — — —		500,000 0 0	15,000 0 0
Purchaſed of the South Sea Company,		4,000,000 0 0	121,898 3 5½
Annuities at three per cent. charged on the ſurplus of the funds for lottery 1714, —		1,250,000 0 0	37,500 0 0
Ditto at three per cent. charged on the duties on coals ſince Lady-day, 1719, —		1,750,000 0 0	52,500 0 0
Ditto at three per cent. in 1746, charged on the the duties on licences for retailing ſpirituous liquors, ſince Lady-day, 1746, —		986,800 0 0	29,604 0 0
Ditto at three per cent. charged on the ſinking fund by the 25th, 28th, 29th, 32d, and 33d of George II. —	21,127,821 5 1¼		
Ditto at three per cent. charged on the duties on offices and penſions,&c. by the 25th Geo. II.	500,000 0 0	33,627,821 5 1¼	1,027,588 5 8
Ditto at three per cent. charged on the additional duty on ſtrong beer and ale, by the 1ſt of George III. —	12,000,000 0 0		
Ditto at three per cent. charged on the ſinking fund by the 25th of George II. —		17,701,323 16 4	540,996 14 0
Ditto at three and a half per cent. charged on the ſame fund by the 29th of George II. —		1,500,000 0 0	53,343 15 0
Ditto at three and a half per cent. charged on the duties on offices and penſions, by the 31ſt of Geo. II.		4,500,000 0 0	160,031 5 0
Ditto at four per cent. charged on the ſinking fund, by the act of the 2d of George III.		20,240,000 0 0	820,985 0 0
The ſubſcribers of one hundred pounds to the lottery of 1745, were allowed an annuity for one life of nine ſhillings a ticket, which amounted to twenty-two thouſand five hundred pounds, but is now reduced by lives fallen in, to eighteen thouſand three hundred and fifty-four pounds; and the ſubſcribers of one hundred pounds to the lottery of 1746, were allowed an annuity for one life of eighteen ſhillings a ticket, which amounted			
Carried forward,		95,478,026 14 2¾	3,240,310 17 9½

	Principal debt.			*Annual Intereſt, &c.*		
Brought over,	£. 95,478,026	14	2¼	3,240,310	17	9½
to forty-five thouſand pounds, but is now reduced by lives fallen in, to thirty-ſeven thouſand two hundred and ninety-eight pounds ten ſhillings; and the ſubſcribers for one hundred pounds for three per cent. annuities of 1757, were allowed an annuity for one life of one pound two ſhillings and ſix-pence, which amounted to thirty-three thouſand ſeven hundred and fifty pounds, but is now reduced by lives fallen in, to thirty-two thouſand five hundred and eighty-five pounds ſeventeen ſhillings and ſix-pence; and the ſubſcribers of one hundred pounds for three per cent. annuities of 1761, were allowed an annuity for ninety-nine years of one pound two ſhillings and ſix-pence, amounting, with the charges of management, to the Bank of England, to one hundred and thirty thouſand and fifty-three pounds ten ſhillings and three-pence; which annuities are an increaſe of the annual intereſt, but cannot be added to the public debt, as no money was advanced for the ſame: and the contributors to twelve millions, for the ſervice of the year 1762, were entitled to an annuity of one per cent. per annum, to continue for ninety-eight years, and then to ceaſe; which, with the charges of management to the Bank of England, amount to the ſum of one hundred and twenty-one thouſand ſix hundred and eighty-ſeven pounds ten ſhillings,				309,979	7	9
SOUTH SEA COMPANY.						
On their capital ſtock and annuities of the ninth of George I. — —	25,025,309	13	11½	765,326	3	1½
Annuities at three pound per cent. of 1751, charged on the ſinking fund, —	2,100,000	0	0	64,181	5	0
Total,	122,603,336	8	2¼	4,379,797	13	8

According to the bills of mortality of London for this year, the chriſtenings and burials were as follows:

Chriſtened, Males,	—	7,761	Buried, Males,	—	13,147
Females,	—	7,372	Females,	—	12,996
In all,		15,133	In all,		26,143

A. D. 1763 The general hiſtorian would be induced, in this place, to exerciſe the pleaſing power of recapitulatory obſervation.—He would, as it were, officially enumerate the leading events of the late important period, direct the attention of his reader to their immediate contingencies, and perhaps take a prophetic flight into the region of futurity, and bring their more remote conſequences to his conſideration. A comparative view of the different nations who had lately formed thoſe grand alliances, beneath whoſe powerful ſtruggles all Europe trembled, from the commencement of the war, to the concluſion of peace, would occupy his attention, and employ his pen. As a Briton, he would trace, with no common ardour, the career of Britiſh glory in every quarter of the globe, and dwell with the moſt exulting triumph on the puniſhed perfidy and blaſted ambition of the Houſe of Bourbon.

But though we may feel all the glowing enthuſiaſm with which the remembrance of ſuch a glorious period muſt naturally inſpire every patriotic boſom, we muſt content ourſelves with fulfilling the duty aſſigned us to perform, and perſevere in that path which is traced out for us. The plume of glory, and the laurel of victory, muſt yield, in our page, to the horn of plenty, which is the offspring of commerce. It is our office to trace public proſperity through the exertions of national induſtry, directed by commercial genius, inſtead of looking for it in the more ſtriking, but leſs happy progreſs of war and conqueſt.

We may however obſerve, that peace now extended itſelf over every part of Europe; and the late belligerent nations began to conſider of the different means they reſpectively poſſeſſed of healing the wounds they had received during the late war. To the north, Ruſſia ſettled, in the moſt amicable manner, her diſpute with Denmark concerning the dutchy of Holſtein; and, to the ſouth, the King of Sardinia obtained a confirmation of that part of the treaty of Aix la Chapelle, which eſtabliſhed his reverſionary title to Placentia, on failure of the male line of the Infant Don Philip, or in caſe that Prince or his iſſue ſhould ſucceed to the crowns of his family.

The Corſicans, indeed, muſt form a little hoſtile groupe in our picture of peace; they were ſtill ſtruggling for their liberties againſt their tyrannic maſters, the Genoeſe;—and we cannot help remarking in this place, the neceſſity which will oblige us to record in another,—that they ſtruggled in vain.

The ſucceſſes of the late war had now added a large extent of territory to the Britiſh empire; and the national trade conſequently poſſeſſed a variety of new objects, and claimed many additional regulations, to direct that internal energy with which an unparalleled ſeries of ſucceſſes ſeemed to have inſpired it. This, therefore, may be conſidered as an important epocha in the commerce of our country; and as that compact, reſiſtleſs union of its parts began very ſoon to diſcover ſymptoms of ſeparation, we ſhall now offer, as an intereſting and very important part of commercial hiſtory, a regular ſtatement of every fifth year of the imports and exports of the trade of Great Britain, during the courſe of the current century to the year 1763; as a kind of ſcale, by which the progreſs of our national trade may be clearly meaſured, and its variations generally compared.

The following Tables, which contain this uſeful and ready information, are taken from the annual accounts given in to the Houſe of Commons; and may, therefore, be preſumed to poſſeſs all the accuracy which official care could beſtow upon them.

IMPORTS and EXPORTS, from CHRISTMAS 1700, to CHRISTMAS 1701.

Countries.	*Imports.* £.	s.	d.	*Exports.* £.	s.	d.
Africa,	21,074	19	8¼	133,499	2	1
Canaries,	119,773	13	3½	40,735	10	9
Denmark and Norway,	58,773	9	10¾	44,695	8	1½
Eaſt Country,	167,382	4	10½	149,644	16	6
Eaſt India,	762,188	7	3	122,048	1	5½
Flanders,	65,123	19	2	270,564	6	6¼
France,	123,940	—	9	212,708	7	1¾
Germany,	729,097	18	9½	1,005,304	5	6
Holland,	521,257	16	—	2,138,569	8	—¾
Ireland,	285,390	18	1¼	296,144	7	7¾
Italy,	384,937	10	—¾	135,202	2	7
Madeiras,	1,614	8	10¼	11,444	17	8¾
Newfoundland,	19,696	18	2½	9,156	6	5½
Portugal,	206,924	6	4½	277,109	4	10
Ruſſia,	90,581	13	2¼	69,201	10	4¾
Scotland,	73,988	18	11¼	56,802	2	2
Spain,	532,691	1	10½	430,515	4	9¼
Streights,				389,167	16	2¼
Sweden,	190,509	18	5½	70,806	19	2¼
Turkey,	386,611	2	9	239,102	12	8
Venice,	56,801	9	6¾	65,401	12	4¾
Alderney,	718	—	2½	40	13	—
Guernſey,	7,834	16	—	7,681	19	2
Jerſey,	12,888	5	5½	8,516	12	4¾
Antigua,	82,110	6	9	27,963	13	10
Barbadoes,	280,678	4	3¼	182,045	15	4½
Bermudas,	1,079	17	7½	1,065	18	4¾
Carolina,	16,973	6	3	13,908	8	3½
Hudſon's Bay,	5	5	—	1,658	9	8½
Jamaica,	235,214	14	11¼	105,234	12	8
Montſerrat,	31,569	5	4¾	2,191	15	10¾
Nevis,	87,447	—	8	19,417	10	10¾
New England,	32,656	7	2	86,322	13	11¼
New Providence,	982	6	—¾			
New York,	18,547	3	6	31,910	6	6½
Pennſylvania,	5,220	6	3	12,003	16	10
St. Chriſtopher's,	21,581	9	10	2,396	1	2½
Virginia and Maryland,	235,738	18	4½	199,683	2	3¼
Foreign coin and bullion,				751,187	12	10
Totals,	5,869,606	9	10	7,621,053	6	5¾
Exports exceed the Imports,				1,751,446	16	7¾

IMPORTS and EXPORTS, from CHRISTMAS 1704, to CHRISTMAS 1705.

Countries.	*Imports.* £.	s.	d:	*Exports.* £.	s.	d.
Africa,	8,679	1	1¾	65,104	16	3
Canaries,	24,949	19	5¼	19,301	4	11½
Denmark and Norway,	81,348	18	11	43,349	1	4¾
Eaſt Country,	96,451	2	11¾	100,281	10	11½
Eaſt India,	391,974	17	5½	27,004	14	5¾
Flanders,	—			30	1	3
Germany,	676,381	8	1¼	978,104	13	4
Holland,	572,209	15	7½	1,715,002	0	6¼
Ireland,	279,992	1	2¾	244,057	6	6¾
Italy,	173,996	10	9½	134,466	9	11
Madeiras,	8,285	15	8½	19,498	7	1¼
Newfoundland,	5,008	15	9	8,596	0	4¾
Portugal,	222,542	19	5½	818,995	16	7¾
Ruſſia,	142,134	10	7¾	74,247	1	11¼
Scotland,	57,902	12	0¾	50,035	13	2¾
Spain,	10,346	8	10	22,827	7	6
Streights,	—			196,118	18	11¾
Sweden,	205,856	9	7¼	46,747	5	8¾
Turkey,	50,874	11	8¾	90,443	8	4½
Venice,	49,110	1	1½	17,534	9	8¼
Alderney,	20	10	0	30	0	0
Guernſey,	7,438	9	11	4,001	19	8¼
Jerſey,	12,521	6	10¾	1,765	6	4
Antigua,	104,278	5	1	22,092	5	10¼
Barbadoes,	353,578	18	4½	127,906	8	0
Bermudas,	—			61	2	11
Carolina,	2,698	18	0	19,788	6	8
Hudſon's Bay,	—			2,021	10	0¾
Jamaica,	75,388	3	4	125,047	17	7¼
Montſerrat,	29,702	14	3¾	6,604	14	8¾
Nevis,	121,576	1	3½	20,607	0	4¾
New England,	22,793	4	8½	62,504	0	10½
New York,	7,393	1	4	27,902	14	9½
Pennſylvania,	1,309	17	7	7,206	10	3½
St. Chriſtopher's,	22,053	14	4½	3,591	12	1¼
Virginia and Maryland,	116,768	17	8¼	174,322	17	3¼
Weſt Indies in general,	—			31,765	9	5¼
Prize goods,	96,084	11	4¾	—		
Foreign coin and bullion,	—			192,711	5	0
Totals,	4,031,649	14	10¾	5,501,677	11	2¾
Exports exceed the Imports,				1,470,027	16	4

IMPORTS and EXPORTS, from CHRISTMAS 1709, to CHRISTMAS 1710.

Countries.	*Imports.*			*Exports.*		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Africa,	14,436	2	4½	69,459	2	1¼
Canaries,	27,266	15	10	21,488	6	4¼
Denmark and Norway,	60,852	7	—¾	31,571	8	11
Eaſt Country,	114,999	6	5¾	29,634	5	5¼
Eaſt India,	248,266	5	1½	126,310	5	3½
Flanders,	10,494	5	—½	127,080	2	6½
France,				41,101	12	—
Germany,	457,878	14	—¼	975,803	19	4
Holland,	637,447	17	9¼	2,071,306	12	7¼
Ireland,	310,846	—	7¾	285,424	2	9
Italy,	169,654	16	11	126,089	1	2
Madeiras,	6,536	8	3	17,318	17	4
Newfoundland,	13,965	1	4	11,874	8	7
Portugal,	192,113	—	8½	614,635	1	8½
Ruſſia,	115,725	6	7½	212,318	10	—½
Spain,	271,401	19	10½	215,935	7	4
Streights,	870	10	5	275,385	3	6½
Sweden,	173,585	10	2	27,620	3	7½
Turkey,	11,610	—	10¼	417,690	2	5½
Venice,	42,756	9	3½	45,960	15	—½
Alderney,	24	18	—	102	4	3
Guernſey,	14,126	12	4	9,769	16	5½
Jerſey,	16,429	7	10	7,094	16	5½
Antigua,	171,592	3	5	26,954	17	3
Barbadoes,	230,047	14	2¾	64,223	11	9
Bermudas,				1,228	2	5
Carolina,	20,793	9	—	19,613	18	11¾
Hudſon's Bay,				1,160	4	3½
Jamaica,	213,990	—	6½	59,993	15	8½
Montſerrat,	24,805	13	10¼	2,369	15	10
Nevis,	95,825	11	2	10,640	16	10¾
New England,	31,112	17	7½	106,338	6	4
New York,	8,203	18	2¾	31,475	—	9½
Pennſylvania,	1,277	2	7	8,594	14	5¼
St. Chriſtophers,	44,243	10	7¼	3,698	18	8
Virginia and Maryland,	188,429	8	6	127,639	—	5¾
Weſt Indies in general,	5,164	1	9¾	34,383	4	11¾
Prize goods,	64,567	18	10¾			
Foreign coin and bullion,				395,620	—	10
Totals,	4,011,341	7	4¾	6,690,828	15	2¾
Exports exceed the Imports,				2,679,487	7	10

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IMPORTS and EXPORTS, from CHRISTMAS 1714, to CHRISTMAS 1715.

Countries.	Imports. £.	s.	d.	Exports. £.	s.	d.
Africa,	30,096	12	6	51,912	6	2
Canaries,	68,556	1	1	46,218	16	10
Denmark and Norway,	103,107	8	11	49,744	6	11
Eaſt Country,	94,951	11	7	50,814	7	1
Eaſt India,	579,944	4	2	36,997	12	6
Flanders,	25,103	16	1	251,049	1	8
France,	47,127	15	2	111,019	12	7
Germany,	656,417	15	4	877,515	19	1
Holland,	436,588	3	10	1,945,738	7	10
Ireland,	389,437	1	0	420,062	11	5
Italy,	428,903	15	1	161,534	5	6
Madeiras,	7,149	13	9	57,564	9	2
Newfoundland,	11,288	2	2	8,120	1	10
Portugal,	333,385	6	0	625,381	9	9
Ruſſia,	241,876	7	11	105,153	10	0
Spain,	302,807	7	10	395,868	9	3
Streights,	30,041	1	7	380,696	5	8
Sweden,	165,631	10	9	37,235	7	1
Turkey,	311,903	10	5	181,109	7	1
Venice,	61,197	17	8	29,382	8	2
Alderney,	67	12	0	434	7	6
Guernſey,	6,663	13	3	25,067	12	9
Jerſey,	9,147	11	4	15,136	1	2
Antigua,	162,503	17	9	27,032	5	9
Barbadoes,	386,787	7	3	144,649	3	10
Bermudas,	523	7	10	1,809	17	11
Carolina,	29,158	0	5	16,631	19	1
Hudſon's Bay,	—	—	—	1,402	18	8
Jamaica,	273,747	3	6	110,870	7	4
Montſerrat,	30,675	8	9	4,476	11	6
Nevis,	88,161	17	1	9,498	14	0
New England,	66,555	12	8	164,650	7	6
New York,	21,316	19	10	54,629	1	5
Pennſylvania,	5,461	4	9	16,182	7	7
St. Chriſtopher's,	57,536	3	0	4,077	3	9
Virginia and Maryland,	174,756	4	6	199,274	17	1
Weſt Indies in general,	2,366	9	8	106,629	0	11
Spaniſh Weſt Indies,	—	—	—	196,691	17	1
Foreign coin and bullion,	—	—	—	457,145	10	3
Totals,	5,640,943	16	5	7,379,409	0	8
Exports exceed the Imports,				1,738,465	4	3

IMPORTS and EXPORTS, from CHRISTMAS 1719, to CHRISTMAS 1720.

Countries.	*Imports.* £.	s.	d.	*Exports.* £.	s.	d.
Africa,	25,307	1	8	130,350	14	11
Canaries,	39,642	13	3	19,845	11	8
Denmark and Norway,	112,263	8	1	129,674	—	4
Eaſt Country,	109,557	15	10	98,968	13	4
Eaſt India,	931,441	10	11	83,811	19	9
Flanders,	30,836	14	5	213,782	19	—
France,	69,758	15	3	192,372	13	8
Germany,	508,432	10	8	760,224	13	3
Holland,	482,085	4	2	1,915,112	6	—
Ireland,	282,812	—	7	328,583	15	5
Italy,	436,169	12	7	123,292	15	9
Madeiras,	4,628	17	4	39,338	7	6
Newfoundland,	14,643	12	3	11,859	3	9
Portugal,	319,476	3	9	775,835	17	3
Ruſſia,	169,932	12	9	92,229	1	8
Spain,	251,984	19	2	499,324	8	—
Streights,	43,014	9	9	342,715	4	3
Sweden,	191,352	5	11	111,555	7	4
Turkey,	398,564	9	6	359,838	17	10
Venice,	38,370	1	3	19,836	18	5
Alderney,	35	—	—	257	1	6
Guernſey,	11,699	14	3	24,371	6	6
Jerſey,	13,795	14	10	13,184	15	5
Antigua,	172,006	5	6	18,295	17	5
Barbadoes,	312,962	19	9	91,011	15	—
Bermudas,	1,897	10	7	2,172	9	3
Carolina,	62,736	6	8	18,290	12	11
Hudſon's Bay,	10,947	2	3	1,897	9	9
Jamaica,	384,691	5	3	85,632	6	10
Montſerrat,	39,511	9	9	2,965	5	—
Nevis,	71,695	4	3	8,302	8	11
New England,	49,206	12	6	128,767	2	11
New York,	16,836	12	7	37,397	19	5
Pennſylvania,	7,928	14	10	24,531	15	2
St. Chriſtopher's,	136,710	—	2	12,009	7	6
Virginia and Maryland,	331,482	2	5	110,717	17	10
Weſt Indies in general,	5,666	—	5	82,539	19	7
Foreign coin and bullion,	—	—	—	1,025,829	16	6
Totals,	6,090,083	15	1	7,936,728	16	6
Exports exceed the Imports,				1,846,654	1	5

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IMPORTS and EXPORTS, from CHRISTMAS 1724, to CHRISTMAS 1725.

Countries.	*Imports.*			*Exports.*		
	£.	*s.*	*d.*	£.	*s.*	*d.*
Africa,	67,514	4	—	284,024	15	10
Canaries,	45,360	6	5	45,263	11	10
Denmark and Norway,	106,909	9	7	62,481	8	11
Eaſt Country,	209,149	3	11	105,029	8	4
Eaſt India,	759,778	12	3	93,795	12	1
Flanders,	72,610	2	5	256,852	17	1
France,	46,572	13	1	389,916	8	2
Germany,	759,969	18	1	1,039,375	17	6
Greenland,	4,262	15	2	24	18	4
Holland,	563,684	8	4	1,777,724	12	1
Ireland,	333,870	18	5	474,836	13	6
Italy,	529,424	14	11	151,952	19	2
Madeiras,	4,049	19	10	66,672	18	8
Newfoundland,	19,243	5	11	22,528	2	5
Portugal,	410,967	15	9	780,992	9	6
Ruſſia,	250,315	6	11	24,847	14	10
Spain,	437,823	19	5	636,192	17	5
Streights,	98,824	—	9	515,633	17	—
Sweden,	161,884	14	7	38,324	15	8
Turkey,	345,379	17	11	252,317	9	1
Venice,	34,273	3	11	18,614	6	11
Alderney,	152	17	9	497	12	6
Guernſey,	7,639	1	8	30,281	13	1
Jerſey,	9,472	9	—	13,353	9	11
Antigua,	217,452	16	9	35,873	8	3
Barbadoes,	360,912	—	2	107,008	1	4
Bermudas,	4,829	12	2	7,213	14	9
Carolina,	91,942	13	7	39,182	12	8
Hudſon's Bay,	11,343	17	7	2,410	17	1
Jamaica,	449,408	17	4	182,883	18	4
Montſerrat,	44,322	5	—	3,385	16	1
Nevis,	86,646	11	10	7,412	5	4
New England,	72,021	12	6	201,768	—	4
New York,	24,976	5	3	70,650	8	—
Pennſylvania,	11,981	1	3	42,209	14	2
St. Chriſtopher's,	200,442	4	1	19,982	5	3
Virginia and Maryland,	214,730	2	2	195,884	11	6
Weſt Indies in general,	4,428	10	—	239,603	6	8
Spaniſh Weſt Indies,	20,136	—	10	244,876	16	3
Foreign coin and bullion,				2,870,598	5	6
Totals,	7,094,708	8	6	11,352,480	11	4
Exports exceed the Imports,				4,257,772	2	10

IMPORTS and EXPORTS, from CHRISTMAS 1729, to CHRISTMAS 1730.

Countries.	*Imports.*			*Exports.*		
Africa,	£. 57,081	18	10	£. 260,690	2	7
Canaries,	22,738	19	6	33,565	15	6
Denmark and Norway,	95,715	10	3	51,494	12	7
Eaſt Country,	190,540	19	8	136,935	16	9
Eaſt India,	1,059,759	18	11	135,484	1	1
Flanders,	100,213	9	7	278,717	9	1
France,	40,834	12	2	290,505	9	8
Germany,	831,390	11	8	1,092,490	9	1
Greenland,				462	10	9
Holland,	568,102	15	11	1,766,526	15	6
Ireland,	294,156	4	4	532,698	19	5
Italy,	490,694	0	3	50,739	8	0
Madeiras,	6,365	7	2	40,831	5	3
Newfoundland,	28,954	12	6	21,725	3	9
Portugal,	228,118	9	6	1,015,754	15	3
Ruſſia,	258,802	1	6	46,275	7	5
Spain,	518,972	6	8	777,949	6	11
Streights,	136,488	5	3	494,735	14	3
Sweden,	191,022	15	7	15,271	11	11
Turkey,	291,786	17	1	174,103	13	2
Venice,	57,916	14	0	12,928	1	0
Alderney,	77	14	8	501	12	0
Guernſey,	8,660	0	4	17,689	0	0
Jerſey,	10,393	7	9	19,878	19	2
Antigua,	268,801	9	3	32,582	11	4
Barbadoes,	368,326	18	9	118,240	3	5
Bermudas,	329	11	4	68	10	0
Carolina,	151,739	17	6	64,785	11	5
Hudſon's Bay,	12,466	4	11	2,315	3	9
Jamaica,	533,517	19	8	155,566	10	8
Montſerrat,	65,599	14	2	3,755	15	3
Nevis,	87,229	18	11	7,655	17	2
New England,	54,701	5	10	208,196	5	5
New Providence,	226	10	2			
New York,	8,740	11	3	64,356	16	6
Nova Scotia,	176	6	9			
Pennſylvania,	10,582	1	4	48,592	7	5
St. Chriſtopher's,	248,135	16	3	30,723	6	4
Virginia and Maryland,	346,823	2	3	150,931	6	5
Weſt Indies in general,	7,877	12	2	147,260	19	5
Spaniſh Weſt Indies,	125,956	15	7	245,995	4	1
Foreign coin and bullion,				3,425,153	6	3
Totals,	7,780,019	9	2	11,974,135	14	11
Exports exceed the Imports,				4,194,116	5	9

A. D.
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IMPORTS and EXPORTS, from CHRISTMAS 1734, to CHRISTMAS 1735.

Countries.	*Imports.* £.	s.	d.	*Exports.* £.	s.	d.
Africa,	41,663	14	5	138,659	0	2
Canaries,	24,121	7	0	34,633	0	8
Denmark and Norway,	93,507	2	4	57,570	1	3
Eaſt Country,	205,753	11	0	120,344	5	3
Eaſt India,	1,297,400	7	5	186,375	4	5
Flanders,	165,351	12	10	241,981	12	6
France,	71,584	19	0	228,462	1	6
Germany,	835,180	13	7	1,197,776	13	0
Holland,	524,625	13	6	1,954,837	8	0
Ireland,	417,421	19	9	769,244	15	6
Italy,	497,064	10	11	162,461	13	3
Madeiras,	4,950	19	2	23,947	8	6
Newfoundland,	30,101	12	6	25,535	0	0
Portugal,	358,056	8	10	1,045,533	11	0
Ruſſia,	252,068	4	8	54,335	14	8
Spain,	659,602	2	1	761,760	1	3
Streights,	95,341	19	5	802,745	0	9
Sweden,	213,850	9	5	25,514	17	6
Turkey,	126,191	12	7	292,797	10	1
Venice,	52,173	6	11	20,417	5	8
Alderney,	55	6	2	478	15	8
Guernſey,	18,672	15	2	41,101	13	0
Jerſey,	8,840	15	2	26,394	14	5
Antigua,	284,480	0	0	44,203	15	3
Barbadoes,	201,973	8	8	52,096	13	5
Bermudas,	125	9	10	285	14	10
Carolina,	145,348	7	11	117,837	3	10
Georgia,	3,010	16	11	12,112	13	2
Hudſon s Bay,	9,479	8	2	2,232	17	11
Jamaica,	525,395	12	1	132,490	13	5
Montſerrat,	94,550	0	8	6,559	16	2
Nevis,	67,370	13	0	7,152	10	7
New England,	72,899	15	6	189,125	5	7
New Providence,	322	11	8	385	1	0
New York,	14,155	8	2	80,405	9	4
Pennſylvania,	21,919	6	3	48,804	11	4
St. Chriſtopher's,	286,839	10	6	19,808	8	7
Virginia and Maryland,	394,995	12	5	220,381	6	9
Weſt Indies in general,	26,746	19	10	172,095	0	2
Spaniſh Weſt Indies,	16,989	15	6	9,956	14	11
Foreign coin and bullion,				4,215,303	2	9
Totals,	8,160,184	0	11	13,544,144	7	0
Exports exceed the Imports,				5,383,960	6	1

IMPORTS and EXPORTS, from CHRISTMAS 1739, to CHRISTMAS 1740.

Countries.	*Imports.* £.	s.	d.	*Exports.* £.	s.	d.
Africa,	62,787	11	7	110,543	15	—
Canaries,	2,565	13	2			
Denmark and Norway,	89,496	19	3	70,536	—	1
Eaſt Country,	199,623	10	7	135,480	7	10
Eaſt India,	870,476	12	7	281,751	4	9
Flanders,	251,123	12	8	402,697	5	2
France,	67,094	2	7	225,060	1	—
Germany,	747,795	9	3	1,091,061	7	6
Holland,	403,664	6	6	1,754,204	15	4
Ireland,	390,565	—	7	628,288	9	4
Italy,	462,770	—	11	141,781	10	—
Madeiras,	3,019	—	7	12,772	15	8
Newfoundland,	43,588	8	6	21,562	7	2
Portugal,	201,603	7	2	789,046	17	6
Ruſſia,	300,751	12	—	62,287	8	8
Spain,	229,134	10	6	101,635	18	8
Streights,	74,386	8	9	605,685	14	—
Sweden,	180,839	17	1	15,557	14	5
Turkey,	26,787	7	3	150,374	19	4
Venice,	62,044	8	9	12,158	—	—
Alderney,	194	14	—	562	—	2
Guernſey,	58,279	9	8	62,700	11	7
Jerſey,	24,483	17	9	13,816	2	4
Antigua,	172,129	11	4	36,708	5	4
Barbadoes,	228,811	15	6	81,859	17	9
Bermudas,	14	12	—	632	13	10
Carolina,	266,560	4	5	181,821	14	11
Georgia,	924	9	8	3,524	7	7
Hudſon's Bay,	11,869	3	7	3,837	2	8
Jamaica,	507,624	19	4	194,697	1	1
Montſerrat,	71,535	16	11	4,838	8	5
Nevis,	36,309	15	3	4,254	15	6
New England,	72,389	16	2	171,081	2	5
New Providence,				685	—	—
New York,	21,498	—	5	118,777	8	10
Pennſylvania,	15,048	12	—	56,751	14	9
St. Chriſtopher's,	168,698	15	9	19,260	18	6
Virginia and Maryland,	341,997	10	11	281,428	10	11
Weſt Indies in general,	5,339	5	11	320,328	1	4
Spaniſh Weſt Indies,	202	8	9			
Prize goods,	29,747	10	11	27,736	3	1
Foreign coin and bullion,				672,151	3	—
Totals,	6,703,778	10	6	8,869,939	15	5
Exports exceed the Imports,				2,166,161	4	11

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IMPORTS and EXPORTS, from Christmas 1744, to Christmas 1745.

Countries.	*Imports.* £.	s.	d.	*Exports.* £.	s.	d.
Africa, — —	11,031	—	11	71,399	11	—
Denmark and Norway, —	92,823	12	5	68,895	16	8
Eaſt Country, — —	230,039	18	11	142,909	8	—
Eaſt India, — —	973,705	13	6	293,113	12	10
Flanders, — —	16,920	7	9	143,863	—	4
France, — —	1,200	5	10	54,688	11	11
Germany, — —	674,507	14	11	1,486,157	7	6
Holland, — —	431,374	9	8	2,278,018	10	2
Ireland, — —	1,441,498	13	—	910,920	4	—
Italy, — —	455,293	2	—	88,106	4	3
Madeiras, — —	2,395	11	—	21,966	11	6
Newfoundland, — —	28,488	1	5	28,302	17	4
Portugal, — —	418,452	9	10	1,065,156	9	6
Ruſſia, — —	294,702	13	9	62,672	3	8
Spain, — —	168,352	15	2	82,681	3	8
Streights, — —	7,674	4	8	422,615	10	9
Sweden, — —	250,707	11	10	30,310	8	4
Turkey, — —	225,797	12	9	780	8	—
Venice, — —	46,445	14	6	20,551	10	6
Alderney, — —	49	10	—	427	5	11
Guernſey, — —	30,377	5	7	37,202	4	1
Jerſey, — —	27,360	17	5	13,955	6	10
Antigua, — —	188,650	16	11	32,769	4	—
Barbadoes, — —	165,779	11	8	90,813	13	10
Bermudas, — —	123	3	—	487	4	2
Cape Breton, — —	—			203	11	10
Carolina, — —	91,847	5	3	86,815	13	6
Georgia, — —	—			939	14	1
Hudſon's Bay, — —	11,380	16	4	3,790	10	3
Jamaica, — —	358,385	9	6	131,322	16	6
Montſerrat, — —	49,139	3	9	1,145	8	7
Nevis, — —	49,314	10	9	1,399	2	6
New England, — —	38,948	10	9	140,463	4	7
New York, — —	14,083	3	9	54,957	1	2
Pennſylvania, — —	10,130	9	2	54,280	10	11
St. Chriſtopher's, — —	212,129	9	10	21,859	—	2
Virginia and Maryland, —	399,423	6	3	197,799	12	3
Weſt Indies in general, —	14,159	7	6	193,598	9	10
Prize goods, — —	413,728	12	—	734,447	—	1
Foreign coin and bullion, —	—			1,425,543	12	—
Totals,	7,847,123	3	3	10,497,329	17	—
Exports exceed the Imports,				2,650,206	13	9

IMPORTS and EXPORTS, from CHRISTMAS 1749, to CHRISTMAS 1750.

Countries.	*Imports.*			*Exports.*		
Africa,	£. 29,007	2	10	£. 160,791	14	—
Canaries,	7,720	11	8	30,146	9	—
Denmark and Norway,	90,273	8	3	78,052	5	8
Eaſt Country,	334,316	19	7	157,000	8	8
Eaſt India,	1,104,180	11	11	508,654	6	2
Flanders,	98,714	9	7	422,694	7	4
France,	66,832	15	1	324,385	5	11
Germany,	645,513	12	6	1,255,872	14	1
Greenland,	6,368	13	5			
Holland,	325,487	12	8	2,204,065	5	—
Ireland,	612,808	1	11	1,316,600	2	2
Italy,	291,526	3	6	172,159	1	3
Madeiras,	2,554	2	7	20,134	8	6
Newfoundland,	37,372	19	7	44,867	11	6
Portugal,	244,276	9	4	1,208,248	19	5
Ruſſia,	584,091	16	8	111,846	6	4
Spain,	379,116	1	6	1,783,075	19	8
Streights,	64,663	17	7	762,929	5	—
Sweden,	187,022	9	1	16,162	2	7
Turkey,	189,285	16	7	172,800	5	1
Venice,	38,576	3	9	2,191	7	7
Alderney,	147	14	—	938	1	3
Guernſey,	31,751	12	3	40,942	11	10
Jerſey,	23,707	2	6	15,772	1	11
Anguilla,	3,075	3	10			
Antigua,	203,453	11	—	72,191	3	2
Barbadoes,	215,255	17	3	150,097	18	—
Bermudas,	1,986	10	10	16,447	3	8
Carolina,	191,607	6	3	133,037	—	9
Georgia,	1,942	19	11	2,125	15	5
Hudſon's Bay,	8,609	4	7	4,375	19	—
Jamaica,	731,429	11	6	242,349	10	—
Montſerrat,	51,463	15	—	11,406	16	1
Nevis,	31,738	8	10	3,874	10	5
New England,	48,455	9	—	343,659	6	8
New Providence,	2,462	11	1			
New York,	35,634	8	6	267,130	—	—
Nova Scotia,	226	2	9	13,875	19	7
Pennſylvania,	28,191	—	—	217,713	—	10
St. Chriſtopher's,	253,200	14	2	48,995	4	3
Tortola,	24,838	3	—	1,186	10	6
Virginia and Maryland,	508,939	1	10	349,419	18	3
Prize goods,	4,213	4	9	7,833	14	10
Foreign coin and bullion,				2,432,923	11	9
Totals,	7,772,039	12	5	15,132,004	3	1
Exports exceed the Imports,				7,359,964	10	8

A. D. 1763

IMPORTS and EXPORTS, from CHRISTMAS 1754, to CHRISTMAS 1755.

Countries.	*Imports.*			*Exports.*		
Africa,	£. 40,254	16	8	£. 173,670	—	—
Canaries,	7,874	3	1	29,785	15	5
Denmark and Norway,	73,946	19	6	89,210	10	2
Eaſt Country,	267,228	14	2	174,579	12	6
Eaſt India,	1,246,776	11	3	874,921	6	8
Flanders,	91,623	14	1	463,173	19	9
France,	37,002	8	8	186,310	1	4
Germany,	696,093	4	9	1,361,964	13	5
Greenland,	28,857	5	4	1,367	14	11
Holland,	276,237	4	4	1,710,587	13	1
Ireland,	643,165	15	5	1,070,063	10	6
Italy,	690,136	9	7	216,429	4	1
Madeiras,	3,075	17	1	16,486	16	8
Newfoundland,	37,105	9	5	36,946	8	8
Portugal,	263,080	16	9	1,072,700	6	7
Ruſſia,	661,740	1	11	85,327	8	3
Spain,	368,464	17	3	973,335	4	5
Streights,	137,414	17	4	547,310	2	—
Sweden,	200,049	5	2	19,234	2	8
Turkey,	69,687	1	7	71,589	12	9
Venice,	28,886	5	—	8,790	14	8
Alderney,	5	5	—	887	11	5
Guernſey,	36,085	15	11	26,049	2	3
Jerſey,	18,016	17	1	18,962	4	2
Anguilla,	2,091	11	2			
Antigua,	366,012	19	10	80,686	18	5
Barbadoes,	275,490	1	3	197,267	7	7
Bermudas,				4,074	2	3
Carolina,	325,525	13	6	187,887	4	9
Georgia,	4,437	16	10	2,630	19	4
Hudſon's Bay,	7,998	12	1	3,849	15	5
Jamaica,	775,096	9	6	335,504	14	1
Montſerrat,	79,972	2	3	4,488	15	8
Nevis,	82,463	15	6	14,260	13	9
New England,	59,533	6	11	341,796	7	3
New Providence,	1,473	—	6			
New York,	28,054	12	3	151,071	5	—
Nova Scotia,	487	17	3	24,052	14	10
Pennſylvania,	32,336	10	6	144,456	7	2
St. Chriſtopher's,	269,575	9	3	57,927	1	10
St. Thomas,	31,279	11	6			
Tortola,	18,556	18	7	457	19	8
Virginia and Maryland,	489,668	17	10	285,157	4	5
Foreign coin and bullion,				1,117,012	9	9
Totals,	8,772,865	2	10	12,112,255	17	6
Exports exceed the Imports,				3,409,390	14	8

A. D.
1763

IMPORTS and EXPORTS, from CHRISTMAS 1759, to CHRISTMAS 1760.

Countries.	*Imports.* £.	s.	d.	*Exports.* £.	s.	d.
Africa,	39,410	14	0	345,546	0	1
Canaries,	3,131	0	5	58,859	4	4
Denmark and Norway,	58,745	10	10	108,627	3	0
Eaſt Country,	205,464	16	5	190,217	0	11
Eaſt India,	1,785,679	11	1	1,161,670	6	0
Flanders,	31,228	3	0	379,093	11	9
France,	37	5	9	209,946	9	7
Germany,	668,076	11	4	1,544,016	15	5
Greenland,	10,824	3	0	27	11	7
Holland,	412,397	3	1	1,784,442	11	2
Ireland,	904,180	14	8	1,050,401	0	10
Italy,	506,100	15	7	210,096	10	2
Madeiras,	3,386	14	10	31,605	11	9
Portugal,	299,088	4	8	1,291,560	11	10
Ruſſia,	474,680	2	9	38,710	0	1
Spain,	460,042	13	9	1,048,222	18	1
Streights,	61,850	1	4	399,819	1	9
Sweden,	193,340	2	5	13,657	13	0
Turkey,	58,916	12	6	55,730	0	10
Venice,	41,138	2	6	6,105	5	11
Alderney,	51	3	6	921	4	10
Guernſey,	39,119	4	2	44,761	18	8
Jerſey,	23,003	9	1	27,865	17	0
Antigua,	159,162	19	0	191,117	13	2
Barbadoes,	223,716	12	11	269,449	6	2
Bermudas,	70	12	7	16,115	14	8
Cape Breton,	5	8	3	11,048	14	5
Carolina,	162,769	6	7	218,131	7	8
Georgia,	12,198	14	10			
Guadaloupe,	424,366	18	4	118,569	5	10
Hudſon's Bay,	9,142	12	5	4,959	15	10
Jamaica,	1,034,283	3	8	585,771	13	2
Montſerrat,	75,936	12	4	23,143	13	4
Nevis,	45,750	11	0	20,390	9	8
New England,	37,802	13	1	599,647	14	8
Newfoundland,	26,360	2	4	56,643	1	6
New Providence,	1,730	0	7			
New York,	21,125	0	0	480,106	3	1
Nova Scotia,	701	7	4	52,767	2	2
Pennſylvania,	22,754	15	3	707,998	12	0
Quebec,	2,154	18	5	51,629	18	5
St. Croix,				1,657	3	7
St. Chriſtopher's,	292,470	19	2	149,142	4	10
Tortola,	30,351	19	0	397	18	7
Virginia and Maryland,	504,451	1	11	605,882	19	5
Britiſh and Iriſh linens, per bounty,				188,159	5	0
Prize goods,	465,602	18	5	340,336	3	5
Foreign coin and bullion,				884,102	11	3
Totals,	9,832,802	11	1	15,579,073	0	5
Exports exceed the Imports,				5,746,270	9	4

A. D.
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IMPORTS and EXPORTS, from CHRISTMAS 1762, to CHRISTMAS 1763.

Countries.	*Imports.*			*Exports.*		
Africa,	£. 18,128	2	8	£. 463,818	9	4
Canaries,	2,739	13	1	21,032	16	9
Denmark and Norway,	89,179	11	2	140,610	10	7
Eaſt Country,	247,066	1	6	299,857	7	7
Eaſt India,	1,059,335	18	7	887,083	7	0
Flanders,	83,320	3	10	384,177	12	8
France,	43,158	5	5	197,100	11	3
Germany,	1,085,107	0	9	2,272,272	16	8
Greenland,	8,117	15	2	22	15	3
Holland,	476,383	10	3	1,910,240	19	5
Ireland,	769,379	11	8	1,640,713	3	3
Italy,	948,140	8	0	468,779	18	4
Madeiras,	1,119	3	9	37,278	13	3
Portugal,	304,056	0	10	727,623	12	9
Ruſſia,	801,279	0	7	78,901	1	11
Spain,	590,506	5	11	1,168,072	1	3
Streights,	20,276	11	4	325,622	18	6
Sweden,	249,540	15	0	20,494	1	7
Turkey,	76,004	9	2	93,646	43	11
Venice,	31,841	18	4	20,259	14	0
Alderney,	63	0	0	1,239	14	6
Belle-Iſle,	17	13	7	929	9	6
Guernſey,	127,192	14	5	26,219	17	10
Jerſey,	17,639	13	4	16,287	0	5
Anguilla,	2,369	18	9	—		
Antigua,	180,347	3	1	101,574	8	2
Barbadoes,	252,537	10	0	213,909	4	9
Bermudas,	—			8,623	15	11
Canada,	26,856	13	5	149,539	16	4
Carolina,	282,366	3	6	250,132	2	0
Dominica,	—			1,264	5	6
Florida,	—			9,946	3	2
Georgia,	14,469	18	4	44,908	19	9
Grenades,	261,552	3	0	53,118	5	6
Guadaloupe,	412,303	18	7	11,159	1	4
Havannah,	249,387	4	8	6,643	11	6
Hudſon's Bay,	8,567	10	1	4,393	2	7
Jamaica,	1,159,023	15	11	584,278	2	5
Martinico,	344,162	7	1	12,455	14	2
Montſerrat,	59,571	15	11	15,505	18	1
Nevis,	45,280	9	10	29,557	9	8
New England,	74,815	1	1	258,854	19	6
Newfoundland,	34,102	18	8	55,102	8	7
New Providence,	6,438	2	11	—		
New York,	53,988	14	4	238,560	2	1
Nova Scotia,	4,312	9	10	16,303	3	4
Pennſylvania,	38,228	10	2	284,152	16	0
St. Chriſtophers,	234,981	17	9	104,724	7	10
St. Croix,	8,396	5	9	1,144	0	0
Tortola,	58,571	4	2	1,901	1	4
Virginia and Maryland,	642,294	2	9	555,391	12	10
Weſt Indies in general,	—			39,578	10	10
Britiſh and Iriſh linens, per bounty,	—			30,604	6	6
Foreign coin and bullion,	—			1,672,674	12	6
Prize goods,	160,516	12	10	201,194	6	7
Totals,	11,665,036	0	9	16,160,181	16	3
Exports exceed the Imports,				4,495,145	15	6

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1764 In the early part of this year, an account was brought by the Lapwing Packet from the Eſta Indies, that war had broke out in that part of the Britiſh empire, with circumſtances of ſuch an unpromiſing nature, as to cauſe an immediate fall of fourteen per cent. in India ſtock. The proprietors, as may be naturally ſuppoſed, were greatly alarmed at this intelligence; and their alarms were, in ſome degree, communicated to the nation at large. We ſhall mention the leading cauſes of this diſagreeable event.

Mir Coſſim Aly Cawn, who had been elevated, in the year 1760, by the Governor and Council of Bengal, to the ſubahſhip of that province, in the room of his father-in-law Mir Jaffier, was a bold, ſubtle, and enterprizing character; and feeling, in the utmoſt extent, the diſgrace of his dependent ſtate, was determined to ſeize the firſt opportunity of freeing himſelf from it. Diſſimulation was the firſt engine which he employed—and he employed it with ſucceſs; for it obtained for him the firm eſtabliſhment of his own interior government, by the aſſiſtance of the Engliſh forces, and ſilenced all ſuſpicion of his future deſigns. He then removed from the vicinity of Calcutta to a place called Mongheer, two hundred miles higher up the Ganges, which he fortified with uncommon expedition; and having formed ſuch an army in point of real ſtrength and diſcipline, as India had never yet ſeen among her native defenders, he began to diſcover his real deſigns, and to employ the power he had acquired, to the detriment of thoſe from whom he had received the means of obtaining it. The firſt ſtep he took, was to ſubject the Engliſh private traders to the regular and equal payment of duties throughout his dominions; and directed that their diſputes, if they aroſe beyond their own limits, ſhould be decided by his magiſtrates.

This unexpected conduct of the Subah greatly alarmed the factory; and the governor, Mr. Vanſittart, thought it a matter of ſufficient importance to require his going in perſon to Mongheer, to offer his expoſtulations upon it. But the Subah had taken his meaſures with a ſpirit determined to purſue them, and anſwered the remonſtrances with an equal force of reaſon and coolneſs of expreſſion. "If," ſaid he, "the ſervants of the Engliſh Company "were permitted to trade in all parts, and in all commodities, free from the payment of cuſ- "toms, as many of them now pretend, they muſt, of courſe, draw all the trade into their "own hands, and my cuſtoms would be of ſo little value, that it would be much more for "my intereſt to make trade entirely free, and collect no cuſtoms from any perſons whatever, "upon any kind of merchandize. This would draw a number of merchants into the coun- "try, and increaſe my revenues, by encouraging the cultivation and manufacture of a large "quantity of goods for ſale; at the ſame time that it would cut off the principal ſubject of "diſputes which had diſturbed the good underſtanding between us; an object I have more "than any other at heart."

This was a ſtile of reaſoning, which was equally unexpected and unanſwerable. The reaſonings of the Nabob were founded in juſtice, and he accompanied them with ſuch declarations as induced the Engliſh governor to ſubmit, where he was accuſtomed to dictate, and to conſent to regulations which operated very much to the diſadvantage of the Engliſh traders.

As ſoon as the effect of this negociation was known at Calcutta, the factory loſt all moderation in the aſtoniſhment and indignation which they felt on the occaſion. The council diſavowed the conduct of their governor, and refuſed to abide by the treaty which he had concluded. They aſſerted, that he had aſſumed an authority which he did not poſſeſs; that the regulations to which he had aſſented, were not only deſtructive to public and private trade, but were a ſtain on the Engliſh name; and, that having acted, as he had done, without the

A. D. 1764 advice or conſent of the council, was an evident breach of its privileges, to which they could not ſubmit. They therefore inſtantly diſpatched orders to all the different factories, to pay no regard to the agreement which had lately been entered into between Governor Vanſittart and the Subah.

But ſuch counteracting meaſures were not the fruits of an unanimous ſpirit. No common difference of opinion prevailed, and violent diſputes ſucceeded; public confuſion then followed, and commerce was interrupted in all its interior channels. An application was made to Mir Coſſim to enter upon another negociation, which he refuſed with all the inſolence of conſcious power. No other way was therefore left to ſettle this diſpute, but the conteſt of arms; and the Engliſh factory having once more proclaimed Mir Jaffier, Subah of Bengal, prepared to march their forces into the field.

Though this war with the Nabob terminated to the advantage of the Eaſt India Company, the accounts from India, at this moment, were of an alarming nature, and very violent debates took place at the public meetings of the proprietors to conſider of the preſent ſtate of the Company's affairs. The firſt ſubject of debate, was the conduct of their ſervants abroad, and much acrimony mingled itſelf with the charges and recriminations which were dealt forth without reſerve by the friends of the different Oriental parties: but the diſputes which aroſe on this ſubject, were ſoon loſt in the conſideration of a more extenſive and important object, the general adminiſtration of the Company's affairs both abroad and at home. Lord Clive was almoſt univerſally conſidered as the only perſon qualified to be commander in chief in India, at this critical period; while Mr. Sullivan was ſupported by a very large and reſpectable body of proprietors, as a perſon the moſt capable to take the chair of the direction at home. But Lord Clive abſolutely refuſed to act as a ſervant of the company, if Mr. Sullivan was permitted to take a leading part in the adminiſtration of their concerns; and, at length, the gloomy proſpect of affairs in India determined the conteſt to the wiſhes of that nobleman. The diſpute, alſo, which had for ſome time ſubſiſted between the Company and Lord Clive, relative to his jaghire, being finally ſettled, and harmony fully reſtored, his lordſhip, who was honoured by his Majeſty, on the occaſion, with the Order of the Bath, and the rank of Major General in India, ſet out for the ſeat of his future government with the confidence of the company and his country.

The rapacity of the company's ſervants in their Oriental governments, had diſgraced the national character; and if the company had been as attentive to public honour as they were to private intereſt, ſome effectual methods would have been already taken to keep the perſons employed by them in India, within the bounds of moderation and juſtice. Indeed, the diſpute between the Directors and Lord Clive, relative to the jaghire, had produced a poſitive reſolution, that none of their ſervants ſhould in future accept of any gratuity from any Indian Prince or Governor; but, it is not our immediate buſineſs to enquire how far this determination of the direction at home was obſerved abroad. Abuſes ſtill ſubſiſted, and the wiſdom of Parliament was, at length, under the neceſſity of exerting itſelf in the controul of them. The circumſtances of which alteration in the company's affairs, will, of courſe, ſolicit our attention when we arrive at the period that produced ſuch a wiſe and ſalutary meaſure.

Mr. Blake, whom we have mentioned with a becoming encomium, in the preceding year was, with great juſtice, releaſed from the obligation of fifteen hundred pounds, advanced to him by the ſociety for the encouragement of arts, manufactures, and commerce, on his pledged ſecurity, over and above the two thouſand pounds conſigned to his diſcretionary uſe in the

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1764 undertaking to ſupply London, and its vicinity, with fiſh, &c. And ſoon after the Parliament, convinced of the great utility of the ſcheme, were pleaſed to allow him two thouſand five hundred pounds for the purpoſe of encouraging it. But here the national attention to what may be conſidered as a great national object, ended; Parliament thought proper to ſhew its approbation of the plan by this temporary grant, and then left it to ſink beneath the power of that monopoly which it was its duty to annihilate.

In conſequence of the great increaſe in the price of meat, a committee of the Houſe of Commons was appointed to examine into the cauſes of it.

For this purpoſe ſeveral tradeſmen were examined, who alleged, that there was an augmented demand for proviſions ariſing from an increaſing conſumption in London and its environs; but, on a ſtrict examination to this point, they were not able to produce any concluſive or probable evidence of ſuch an increaſe as they had ſuppoſed. They then accounted for this increaſe of the price of meat from the want of pork at market, proceeding from the uncommon plenty of acorns in 1762, which induced all the feeders to fatten their whole ſtock of hogs in that year; which extraordinary ſlaughter was not then replaced; and that the want of one article, in the general proviſions of ſo populous a city as London, neceſſarily advanced the price of every other: they added, alſo, that the wet ſeaſon had conſiderably leſſened the weight even of fat cattle; that the great ſcarcity of fodder in 1762, had reduced the breed and ſtock; and that the failure in the crop of turnips in ſeveral counties, this year, had prevented thoſe counties from fattening the uſual quantities of beaſts. They aſſigned alſo the low prices of hides and tallow as an additional reaſon. But after all, on further examination, the ſaleſmen and butchers were forced to admit, that the high price of proviſions was not excluſively the effect of natural cauſes, but artificially reſulting from private combinations, and the want of better regulations for the ſale of cattle in open markets.

Thus, the abuſes practiſed in a matter of ſuch general importance, were pointed out; and we wiſh it were in our power to add, that an adequate remedy was applied.

On the twenty-ſixth of March, his Majeſty ſigned a proclamation for the ſale, by auction, of all his lands in the iſlands of Grenada, the Grenadines, Dominica, St. Vincent, and Tobago; excepting ſuch lands as ſhall be neceſſary for fortifications, and other military works, glebes for miniſters, allotments for ſchoolmaſters, high-roads, woodlands, and other public purpoſes, on the following conditions:

" That the purchaſers pay twenty per cent. of the whole purchaſe money down, ten per " cent. in one year, ten per cent. in the ſecond year, and twenty per cent. every year after, " till the whole is paid.

" That every purchaſer ſhall have one white man, or two white women, for every hundred " acres cleared; or pay twenty pounds for every white woman, and forty pounds for every " white man wanting.

" That one acre in twenty ſhall be cleared every year, till half the land is cleared: five " pounds to be paid for every acre not ſo cleared.

" That ſix-pence per acre be paid to the crown, as a quit-rent, on ſuch lands as ſhall be " cleared. No perſon to purchaſe more than three hundred acres of land in Dominica, or " five hundred in the other iſlands.

" That diſtricts ſhall be allotted for towns; a penny per foot for ground-rent for tenements, " and ſix-pence per acre for fields. No more than one town lot to one perſon, and five acres " of paſture land to each town lot: eight hundred acres in each pariſh to be reſerved for poor

A. D. 1764 "ſettlers, to be divided into lots of not leſs than ten, nor more than thirty acres each, to be "granted in fee-ſimple. The lands to be occupied and entered upon in three months after "the grants. No lands granted to poor ſettlers to be alienable by ſale, or otherwiſe, for "ſeven years, except for the children of the firſt ſettlers; and all mines of gold and ſilver to "be reſerved to the crown, &c."

In the month of June, ſeveral accounts were received that our logwood cutters in the bay of Honduras had not only been interrupted in their buſineſs, but had been ordered to remove ſuddenly from their uſual places of ſettlement, on pretence of their having no proofs of their being ſubjects to his Britannic Majeſty. This accidental diſpute, for it was no more, was made a ſubject of ſerious declamation by party writers; for it ſoon appeared, by two articles in the London gazette, that the whole was owing to a too ſcrupulous attention to forms in the Spaniſh commanders, and, perhaps, to an improper neglect of them on the part of our logwood cutters.—Theſe articles are as follows:

"*St. James's, July* 21.—In anſwer to the repreſentations made by his Majeſty's ambaſſador "at the court of Madrid, upon the late tranſactions of their governor of Jucatan, and his pro-"ceedings towards the Britiſh ſubjects employed in cutting logwood in the bay of Honduras, "the Spaniſh miniſtry have replied,—That they have not received any advices from that go-"vernor relative to this affair; but that it is certain the Catholic King has given poſitive "orders to his governor of Jucatan to abide by, and obſerve the ſeventeenth article of the laſt "treaty of peace, and that he ſhall not approve of the conduct of his ſubjects who act in con-"tradiction to it.—That it is the intention of his Catholic Majeſty, that no one ſhall impede "the Engliſh in cutting logwood in the ſtipulated places; and he will diſapprove of his gover-"nors and miniſters whenever they act to the contrary, and renew the moſt ſtrict orders to "that effect."

"*St. James's, September* 28.—Laſt night, one of his Majeſty's meſſengers arrived from Ma-"drid, with diſpatches from his Majeſty's ambaſſador at that court, tranſmitting a duplicate "of the orders, which, in conſequence of his excellency's late remonſtrances, that court has "diſpatched to the governor of Jucatan: in which orders his Catholic Majeſty diſapproves "the proceedings of the ſaid governor with reſpect to his Majeſty's ſubjects in the bay of "Honduras, expreſſes his deſire to give his Majeſty the greateſt proofs of his friendſhip, and "of preſerving peace with the Britiſh nation; and commands the ſaid governor to re-eſtabliſh "the Britiſh logwood cutters in the ſeveral places from which he had obliged them to retire, "and to let them know, that they may return to their occupation of cutting logwood, with-"out being diſquieted or diſturbed, under any pretence whatever."

About this time, the King of Denmark declared the ports of his two iſlands of St. Thomas and St. John in America to be free, on the following conditions.

1. No European merchandizes ſhall be carried thither except in his Daniſh Majeſty's European ſhips, which ſhall be furniſhed with paſſports. Two per cent. of the value to be paid on importation. All American productions to be admitted in ſhips of any nation, paying five per cent. of the uſual duty; and theſe veſſels may export any goods duty free. But it is forbidden all veſſels to go from theſe iſlands to St. Croix to take a cargo in return.

2. No productions imported into theſe iſlands ſhall be brought to Europe but in Daniſh ſhips, which had firſt carried goods with paſſports; and theſe to unload only in Denmark or the Daniſh provinces.

3. Theſe

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1764 3. Theſe foreign productions ſhall be exempted from foreign duty; but thoſe of the growth of St. Thomas and St. John are to pay five per cent.

4. Frauds ſhall be puniſhed by confiſcation, and a fine of five rixdollars for every quintal of ſugar, and twenty rixdollars for every one hundred pounds of cotton, over and above the duties.

5. Foreign ſugars brought from theſe iſlands to the Daniſh ſtates, ſhall remain only till they can be exported again, paying one per cent. duty.

To increaſe the revenue, by a minute attention to remedy abuſes in the collection of it, and to throw every poſſible impediment in the way of contraband practice, were the laudable and favourite objects of government at this period. An order of council was therefore publiſhed on the ſeventeenth of Auguſt, ſignifying his Majeſty's intentions, that the laws ſhould be ſtrictly put in execution againſt ſmuggling, particularly on the neighbouring coaſts of the iſle of Man: in conſequence of which, the lords commiſſioners of the admiralty were ordered to ſtation a number of ſhips and cutters, under the command of diſcreet officers, in the harbours and on the coaſts of that iſland, in order to carry his Majeſty's intentions into execution; and the government of Ireland is likewiſe required to give ſuch directions for carrying his Majeſty's intentions into effect, as to them may reſpectively appertain: and, in order to prevent foreigners from pleading ignorance of this regulation, his Majeſty's intentions were duly notified to moſt of the courts of Europe.

Several acts of violence having been committed on the firſt of June in this year, by the commander of a French ſhip of war, in conjunction with other French veſſels, at one of the Turks Iſlands, the Britiſh ambaſſador at the court of France was ordered to demand immediate ſatisfaction and full reparation, for this breach of good faith, and ſuch an unprovoked inſult to the Britiſh crown. In conſequence of the repreſentations made on this ſubject, the court of France not only diſavowed the conduct of its officers, but diſclaimed all intention whatever of acquiring or conquering the Turks Iſlands; and gave immediate orders to the Comte D'Eſtaing, governor of St. Domingo, to cauſe the iſland to be immediately abandoned on the part of the French, to reſtore every thing therein to the condition in which it was on the firſt of June, and to make reparation of the damages which any of his Majeſty's ſubjects ſhall be found to have ſuſtained in conſequence of the proceedings complained of, according to an eſtimation to be immediately ſettled by the ſaid governor, with his Majeſty's governor of Jamaica.

Theſe iſlands are many in number, of which that, where theſe violences took place, is the moſt conſiderable, or rather, the leaſt inſignificant, being low, ſandy and barren, with very little if any freſh water, without any vegetables, except low ſhrubs, or any animals except lizards, guanas, and land crabs: but the coaſt abounds with fiſh and turtle, and the beach is covered with ſea fowl.

It does not appear that any ſettlement was ever attempted by any European nation on theſe iſlands, ſo that no claim can ariſe from poſſeſſion. If priority of diſcovery beſtows any title, they muſt belong to the Spaniards, and not to the French, who neither diſcovered nor were ever in poſſeſſion of them.

The Britiſh nation has certainly been accuſtomed to gather ſalt on them for many years.— The buſineſs of making it is chiefly carried on by Bermudians, who go there in the month of March, and continue during the dry ſeaſon. The people of New England fetch great quantities of ſalt from thence for their fiſheries: they buy it from four-pence to ſix-pence ſterling the

A. D. 1764 the buſhel, and pay the poor Bermudians a ſmall part in money, and the reſt in rum and damaged proviſions, &c.

Theſe iſlands have good anchorage to the leeward, but no harbour whatever; they however form, with the Caicos Bank, a channel of about a league over, which the Engliſh cruizers frequent in time of war, as it is a common paſſage for all veſſels from Monte Chriſti. The French pilots from Cape Francois always prefer it, when the wind favours, to the windward paſſage of our Jamaica-men. Theſe, therefore, are the only reaſons that can be aſſigned for their thus attempting to ſettle there; though it does not appear that they did more with that view (beſides plundering and burning the cabins on it, and carrying the inhabitants, to the number of two hundred, and about nine ſail of Britiſh ſhipping, to Cape Francois, where they releaſed them, with orders not to return to Turks Iſland) than erect two ſtone monuments of eight feet in height, the materials of which were brought from Old France.

On the twenty-ſeventh of September, Bank ſtock roſe near eight per cent. on a dividend of two and a half per cent, inſtead of two and a quarter per cent. being declared for the half year ending on the tenth of the ſucceeding month.

In the beginning of October, the merchants having preſented a petition reſpecting the high prices of proviſions to Lord Halifax, a council was immediately called; and, after a particular examination of evidence on the occaſion, his Majeſty immediately ordered his royal proclamation to be iſſued for the free importation of ſalted beef, ſalted pork, and butter from Ireland; at the ſame time offering a reward of one hundred pounds, for diſcovering any unlawful combinations in the ſale of proviſions; the high price of which had given occaſion to ſome very ſerious diſturbances at Plymouth, and in other parts of England, particularly in Derbyſhire; where the colliers finding wheat one day in the market at eight ſhillings and four-pence the buſhel, cleared the market at five ſhillings the buſhel. In York, a conſiderable number of reſpectable gentlemen aſſociated to raiſe a fund for the importation of corn from other counties, that the poor might be ſupplied with that neceſſary article at a reaſonable price. But ſuch an important object might, in all probability, have been obtained by an wholeſome application of the laws, and a general exertion of the powers veſted in magiſtrates to prevent monopolies, foreſtalling, and ſuch illegal practices, as make an artificial dearth in the midſt of real plenty.

The following bills, as they related, more or leſs, to commercial matters, ſhould be noticed as having this year received the royal aſſent.

A bill to continue an act for allowing the free importation of tallow, hogs-lard, and greaſe, a further limited time from Ireland.

To amend an act of laſt ſeſſions, for laying an additional duty on cyder and perry.

For granting a certain ſum out of the ſinking fund for the ſervice of the year 1764.

For granting certain duties on goods in the Britiſh colonies, for the ſupport of government; and for encouraging the trade to the ſugar colonies, and the ſuppreſſion of contraband trade.

For leſſening the duty on the importation, and raiſing it on the exportation of beaver-ſkins.

For regulating pilots, &c.

For encouraging the manufacture of Britiſh ſail-cloth.

For regulating buildings, and preventing fires.

For veſting the fort of Senegal and its dependencies in the African Company.

For aſcertaining and regulating in what caſes letters ſhall be ſent or received free from the duty of poſtage.

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For granting, for a limited time, liberty to carry rice from his Majeſty's provinces of South Carolina and Georgia, to other parts of America, on paying Britiſh duties.

For raiſing money by loans or Exchequer bills.

For preventing frauds committed by bankrupts, &c.

For preventing inconveniencies ariſing in caſes of merchants, and ſuch other perſons as are within the ſtatutes of bankrupts, being entitled to privilege of Parliament, and becoming inſolvent.

To encourage the cambrick manufacture in England.

For exporting ſalt from Europe to Quebec, for a limited time.

For granting a bounty on the importation of hemp, and rough and undreſſed flax, from his Majeſty's colonies in America.

For enabling his Majeſty, with the advice of his privy council, to order the free importation of proviſions from Ireland during the next receſs of Parliament, or as the neceſſity of the time may require.

For continuing ſeveral acts of Parliament, made for the encouragement of the whale fiſhery carried on by his Majeſty's ſubjects, particularly that on the coaſt of America.

For eſtabliſhing an agreement with the governor and company of the Bank of England, for raiſing certain ſums of money for the ſervice of the year 1764.

For preventing ſuch paper bills of credit, as may hereafter be iſſued within any of his Majeſty's colonies or plantations in America, from being made legal tender in payment of money.

As we gave, in the preceding year, an abſtract of the act for laying duties on cyder, &c. we think it neceſſary to ſtate, rather at large, the act which paſſed this ſeſſion for explaining and amending it.

" It is thereby enacted, that from and after the fifth day of July 1764, the time limited by the former act for payment of the duties, ſhall be extended to ſix months.

" In lieu of the former compoſition, officers of exciſe are authoriſed to compound with private families, at the rate of two ſhillings per head, per annum, for each perſon of eight years old and upwards, in the liſts delivered in to them, which compoſition ſhall be renewed annually; and in caſe of an increaſe in the family during the year, an additional liſt ſhall be given in, and two-pence per month paid for every perſon added during the ſubſiſting unexpired term of ſuch year. The compoſitions ſhall be applied as the duties: other parts of the former act relating to compoſitions, ſhall continue in force.

" Makers of cyder at other preſſes than their own, not being compounders, ſhall enter their names at the next office of exciſe, ten days previous to ſuch making; together with the mills and owners thereof, and the cellars or ſtorehouſes for keeping ſuch cyder, under a penalty for their uſing any unentered mill, ſtorehouſe, &c. twenty-five pounds. Officers of exciſe ſhall have free acceſs to the ſaid mills, ſtorehouſes, &c. in the day time, to gauge the cyder, &c. and to make and report the charge, leaving a copy with the maker; who ſhall pay the duty according to ſuch charge.

" Proprietors of cyder mills, &c. ſo lent out, ſhall not be obliged to give notice thereof.

" Where the compounder intends to ſell or diſpoſe of cyder, &c immediately from the mill, the officer ſhall deliver to him blank certificates and counterparts for the purpoſe, to be filled up occaſionally, which ſhall protect the removal of ſuch cyder. The counterpart ſhall be filled

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1764 filled up and ſigned at the ſame time with the certificates, and ſhall be returned to the officer, and a receipt ſhall be given him for the certificates. The certificates and counterparts not uſed, ſhall be produced when called for. The quantities ſold and certified for, ſhall be verified on oath. Returns of the quantities diſpoſed of, as aforeſaid, ſhall be made by the officers of exciſe to the commiſſioners of exciſe, and the duties charged from the counterparts; a copy of which returns ſhall be left with the maker, who ſhall pay the duty accordingly within the ſix months from thence. A maker of cyder or perry not complying with theſe regulations, or being guilty of any fraud, ſhall forfeit twenty-five pounds. Certificates for the removal of cyder from the mill, ſhall be in force but between the firſt of September and thirteenth of December, yearly. Blank certificates and counterparts ſhall be delivered up within ten days after, on penalty of twenty-five pounds.

" The penalty of obſtructing an officer in his duty, ſhall be fifty pounds. If any officer of exciſe ſhall refuſe, or wilfully neglect to leave a true copy of his report in writing, or to grant a certificate for the removal of any cyder or perry, upon reaſonable requeſt made for that purpoſe, or if any maker of cyder or perry, authoriſed to compound, ſhall offer to make ſuch compoſition, and if any ſuch officer ſhall refuſe or wilfully neglect to accept ſuch compoſition, he ſhall for each refuſal or neglect, forfeit and pay the ſum of forty ſhillings."

By the act relating to the Britiſh colonies, a duty of one pound two ſhillings is laid on foreign clayed ſugars, inſtead of five ſhillings and ſix-pence; a duty of ſix-pence a pound on indigo, inſtead of two-pence; coffee two pounds nineteen ſhillings and nine-pence per hundred weight; Madeira wine ſeven pounds per ton; Port and Spaniſh wines ten ſhillings per ton; wrought ſilks, &c. and ſtuffs mixed with ſilks, &c. two ſhillings a piece; callicoes two ſhillings and ſix-pence a piece; cambrics three ſhillings; French lawns three ſhillings; coffee and pimento of the growth of the Britiſh colonies, coffee ſeven ſhillings per hundred weight, pimento two-pence a pound; foreign melaſſes and ſyrups three-pence a gallon, inſtead of ſix-pence, which was ſeldom paid. Theſe duties are all to be paid into the Exchequer, and reſerved for defraying the charges of protecting the Britiſh colonies in America.

The act for preventing frauds and abuſes in relation to the ſending and receiving letters and packets free from the duty of poſtage, certainly merits a general recital. To raiſe this branch of the public revenue, by correcting its abuſes, and bringing back the privilege of franking letters to its original deſign, was the object of this excellent law.

It appeared, on the examination of witneſſes in the committee of the Houſe of Commons, that the poſtage of franked letters amounted, one year with another, to 170,000l. And, among the various abuſes of it, proof was given that franks were publicly ſold at ſeveral of the coffee-houſes in London. The preamble is as follows:

" Whereas, under colour of the privilege of ſending and receiving poſt letters by members of Parliament, free from the duty of poſtage, many great and notorious frauds have been, and ſtill are frequently practiſed, as well in derogation of the honour of Parliament, as to the detriment of the public revenue; divers perſons having preſumed to counterfeit the hand, and otherwiſe fraudulently to make uſe of the names of members of Parliament, upon letters and packets to be ſent by the poſt, in order to avoid the payment of the duty of poſtage: and whereas the allowance of ſending and receiving letters and packets free from the duty of poſtage, heretofore granted to, or cuſtomarily exerciſed by certain perſons, not being members of Parliament, in reſpect of their offices, has not been ſufficiently confined to ſuch letters and packets only as relate to the buſineſs of their reſpective offices; and may, therefore, if continued,

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1764 nued, without reſtrictions and limitations, be liable to great abuſe: in order, therefore, to put the more effectual ſtop to theſe and the like frauds and abuſes, and, at the ſame time, to aſcertain, for the better guidance and direction of his Majeſty's poſtmaſter-general, and the officers to be employed under him, in the performance of their duty, by what perſons only, and what regulations or reſtrictions, the privilege or allowance of ſending and receiving letters and packets free from the duty of poſtage, ſhall thenceforth be exerciſed and enjoyed, &c."

The principal clauſe of this act, which contains a variety of ſubordinate reſolutions, enacted, "That no letters or packets ſhall be exempted from poſtage but ſuch as ſhall be ſent from or to the King; and ſuch, not exceeding two ounces in weight, as ſhall be ſigned on the outſide by a member of either houſe, and the whole of the ſuperſcription to be of ſuch member's writing, or directed to a member at his uſual reſidence, or place where he ſhall then be, or at the houſe, &c. of Parliament.

"Printed votes and proceedings in Parliament, and newſpapers ſent without covers, or in covers open at the ends, and ſigned on the outſide by a member, or directed to a member, according to notice given by him to the poſtmaſter-general."

Theſe two clauſes were properly inſerted, that this act might not operate to the laying any reſtraint on ſuch a profitable branch of revenue as the public newſpapers, which it would otherwiſe have done.

"Any perſon forging the ſuperſcription of any letter or packet, &c. is adjudged guilty of felony; and the puniſhment of ſuch offence, tranſportation for ſeven years."

It is ſcarce neceſſary to add, that a very conſiderable and immediate addition was made by this ſalutary law to the public revenue.

A debt contracted on account of the war ſtill remained to be ſatisfied. This the miniſtry propoſed to diſcharge to the amount of 2,000,000l. but at this moment there were 1,800,000l. in Exchequer bills, which were at ſuch a diſcount, as to have no ſmall effect on the ſtate of public credit.

The Bank contract, however, being at this time in a ſtate of renewal, the Treaſury availed itſelf very prudently of ſuch a favourable conjuncture, and ſtipulated that this body ſhould take a million of theſe bills for two years, at an intereſt reduced by one-fourth; and, at the ſame time, ſhould pay a fine on their renewal, of 100,000l. This was repreſented, at the time, and we believe with great truth, as the moſt beneficial contract ever made with a corporation, whoſe vaſt money trade is carried on upon the credit of government. For the remaining part of the Exchequer bills, new ones were ſtruck.

Government brought forward to the national ſervice 700,000l. the produce of the French prizes taken before the declaration of war, and which the King had graciouſly beſtowed upon the public. The ſaving of the non-effective was alſo at laſt brought to account, to the amount of 140,000l.

With theſe reſources, aided by the land-tax, which ſeemed now to be ſettled at four ſhillings in the pound, with the malt-tax, and two millions, being the overplus of the ſinking fund, and ſome other particular ſavings, the before-mentioned debt of two millions was paid off, and an adequate proviſion made for the ſervice of the enſuing year, in all its eſtabliſhments and contingencies, the whole amounting to between ſeven and eight millions.

The employment of the overplus of the ſinking fund was juſtified by the public exigency,—by former precedents,—but principally on the credit of its being augmented by near 400,000l.

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1764 in the ſingle article of tea, from the wiſe meaſures which had been taken to prevent ſmuggling, and to enforce a ſtrict and vigilant collection of the revenue.

Upon the whole, this ſcheme of ways and means, though it was very violently attacked by the party writers of the day, muſt be allowed to poſſeſs no inconſiderable merit. It was not attended by loan, taxes, or lottery; and if any little leaven of miniſterial artifice is to be found in the buſineſs, the ſituation of the country, and the temper of the public, may be offered in juſtification of it.

The ſupplies granted by Parliament for the ſervice of this year.

	£.	s.	d.
December 5. Granted to his Majeſty for the marriage portion of her Royal Highneſs the Princeſs Auguſta, — —	80,000	0	0
For 16,000 ſeamen, including 4,287 marines, —	832,000	0	0
For land forces, including 2,739 invalids, amounting to 17,532 effective men; and for guards, garriſons, &c. — —	617,704	17	$10\frac{7}{8}$
For maintaining his Majeſty's forces and garriſons in the Plantations, at Minorca, Gibraltar, &c. — — —	372,774	6	$4\frac{3}{4}$
For the general and general ſtaff officers in Great Britain, —	11,322	7	3
Upon account for the reduced officers of his Majeſty's land forces and marines, — — —	30,188	18	0
Upon account of reduced officers diſbanded in 1763, and to be diſbanded in 1764, — — —	125,455	13	0
For allowances to ſeveral officers, &c. of the two troops of horſe guards and regiment of horſe reduced, &c. &c. —	2,605	15	0
To defray the ſubſidies due to the Duke of Brunſwick, purſuant to treaties, — — — — —	43,901	3	$7\frac{3}{8}$
For the ordinary of the navy, including half pay, &c.	398,568	11	9
For carrying on the building of four houſes for the officers of the hoſpital at Plymouth, — — — — —	3,000	0	0
On account of Greenwich Hoſpital, — —	10,000	0	0
For the charge of the office of ordnance, — —	173,080	8	6
For ſervices performed by the ſaid office, not provided for by Parliament in 1763, — — — —	52,359	8	1
To the building and repairs of his Majeſty's ſhips, —	200,000	0	0
To enable his Majeſty to ſatisfy certain navy and victualling bills,	179,229	6	6
To the Britiſh Muſeum, — — —	2,000	0	0
To the commiſſioners for paving the ſtreets of Weſtminſter, &c.	10,000	0	0
For diſcharging the Exchequer bills made out by virtue of an act paſſed laſt ſeſſion, entitled, "An Act for raiſing a certain Sum of Money "by Loans or Exchequer Bills for 1763, and for further appropriating," &c. and charged upon the firſt aids or ſupplies to be granted in this ſeſſion, — — — —	1,800,000	0	0
To replace to the ſinking fund the ſum iſſued thereout, for the half year's payment due September 29th, 1763, on the annuities after the rate of 4l. per cent. per ann. granted in reſpect of certain navy, victualling,			
Carried over,	4,944,190	16	$0\frac{1}{4}$

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	£.	s.	d.
Brought over,	4,944,190	16	$0\frac{1}{4}$
and tranſport bills, &c. delivered in and cancelled, purſuant to an act made in the laſt ſeſſion, — —	69,671	1	2
To replace to the ſinking fund the ſum paid out of the ſame, to make good the deficiency on July 5th, 1763, of the ſeveral rates and duties upon offices, penſions and houſes, and upon windows and lights, which were made an act by the thirty-firſt of the reign of his Majeſty, for paying annuities to the Bank of England, in reſpect of five millions borrowed towards the ſupply of 1758, — —	41,223	1	6
To replace to the ſinking fund the ſum paid out of the ſame, to make good the deficiency on October 10th, 1763, of the ſeveral additional duties upon wines imported into this kingdom, and certain duties upon all cyder and perry, which were made a fund by an act of the late ſeſſion, for paying annuities, in reſpect of 3,500,000l. borrowed towards the ſupply of 1763, — — — — —	36,699	15	$4\frac{1}{2}$
To make good to his Majeſty certain ſums, which have been advanced by his Majeſty's orders, in purſuance of the addreſſes of this Houſe,	7,350	0	0
For the extraordinary expences of his Majeſty's land forces, and other ſervices, &c. not provided for by Parliament, — —	823,876	12	$2\frac{3}{4}$
Ditto, — — — —	102,469	19	$3\frac{3}{4}$
Ditto, — — —	61,088	4	0
On account of out-penſioners of Chelſea Hoſpital, —	103,794	2	0
To make good a deficiency in the ſum voted laſt ſeſſion, upon account of out-penſioners of Chelſea Hoſpital for 1763, —	18,331	17	11
For paying penſions to certain widows of reduced officers of land forces and marines, &c. — — —	1,696	0	0
Upon account, for the civil eſtabliſhment of Nova Scotia, —	5,703	14	11
Upon account, for the charges of the civil eſtabliſhment of Georgia, &c.	4,031	8	8
Upon account, for the charges of the civil eſtabliſhment of Eaſt Florida,	5,700	0	0
Ditto, Weſt Florida, — — — — —	5,700	0	0
Upon account, for the expence of general ſurveys of his Majeſty's dominions in North America, — — —	1,818	9	0
To be applied towards encouraging and enabling John Blake, Eſq. further to carry into execution the plan concerted by him, for the better ſupplying the cities of London and Weſtminſter with fiſh at moderate rates,	2,500	0	0
Towards diſcharging the debt of the navy,	650,000	0	6
To make good the deficiency of the grants for the ſervice of 1763,	129,489	0	3
For paying a bounty to certain chaplains of the navy, —	1,231	17	6
To enable the commiſſioners appointed by an act of the ſecond year of the preſent reign, to make compenſation to the owners of certain lands in Kent, Suſſex, and Southampton, &c. &c. — —	545	15	0
For the cloathing of the militia, — — —	80,000	0	0
Carried over,	7,097,111	15	$4\frac{1}{4}$

	£.	s.	d.
Brought over,	7,097,111	15	4¼
To make good the intereſt of the ſeveral principal ſums, to be paid in purſuance of the ſaid act of the ſecond year of the preſent reign, —	103	13	9¼
To the Foundling Hoſpital, — — —	38,347	10	0
For maintaining forts and ſettlements on the coaſt of Africa,	20,000	0	0
To enable his Majeſty to make good to Samuel Touchet, of London, merchant, all the expence he has incurred in fitting out ſeveral veſſels, employed in the late ſucceſsful expedition for the reduction of the French forts and ſettlements in the river Senegal, and to ſatisfy to him all claims and demands whatſoever, on the commiſſioners of his Majeſty's navy, or on any officer or officers, employed in the ſaid expedition, for ſuch of the ſaid veſſels as were loſt or taken into his Majeſty's ſervice, —	7,000	0	0
Upon account, towards diſcharging unſatiſfied claims for expences incurred during the late war in Germany, — —	329,093	17	4
That the ſum of 170,906l. 2s. 8d. ariſing from certain ſavings made upon the non-effective accounts of ſeveral regiments, &c. be granted towards diſcharging unſatiſfied claims, &c. during the late war in Germany,	170,906	2	8
To the Landgrave of Heſſe Caſſel, purſuant to treaty, —	50,000	0	0
Sum total of the ſupplies granted this ſeſſion, —	7,712,562	19	1½

Ways and means for raiſing the above ſupply granted to his Majeſty, viz.

DECEMBER 8.

The duties on malt, &c. to be continued to June 24, 1765, 750,000l.

A land tax of 4s. in the pound to be raiſed, in the uſual manner, for one year, from March 25, 1764, 2,037,854l. 19s. 11d.

FEBRUARY 6.

All perſons entitled to ſuch of the bills payable in courſe of the navy or victualling offices, or for tranſports, made out on or before December 31, 1762, as have not been converted into annuities, after the rate of 4l. per cent. per ann. (after having had the intereſt, due thereupon to March 25, 1763, incluſive, computed) ſhall be entitled to an annuity, transferable at the Bank of England, for the principal and intereſt due on the ſaid bills, after the rate of 4l. per cent. per ann. commencing from March 25, 1763, in lieu of all other intereſt, until redeemed by Parliament.

FEBRUARY 9.

That the propoſal of the Bank, for advancing the ſum of 1,000,000 on Exchequer bills, and for paying the ſum of 110,000l. into the Exchequer, be accepted, 1,110,000l.

FEBRUARY 21.

That the act of the ninth of George II. chap. 37. is near expiring, and fit to be continued.

That the act of the fourth of George II. chap. 29. is near expiring, and fit to be continued.

That ſo much of an act of the eighth of George I. chap. 12. as relates to the importation of wood, timber and lumber from any of his Majeſty's colonies in America, free from all cuſtoms whatſoever, is near expiring, and fit to be continued.

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MARCH 10.

That a duty of 2l. 19s. 9d. per hundred weight, averdupois, be laid on all foreign coffee, imported from any place, except Great Britain, into the Britiſh colonies or plantations in America. That a duty of 6d. per lb. be laid on all foreign indigo, imported into the ſaid colonies. That a duty of 7l. ſterling per tun, be laid on all wine of the growth of the Madeiras, or any other place, imported into the ſaid colonies. That a duty of 10s. ſterling per tun, be laid on all Portugal, Spaniſh, or any other wine, except French, imported from Great Britain into the ſaid colonies. That a duty of 2s. ſterling per lb. be laid on all wrought ſilks, Bengals, and ſtuffs mixed with ſilk or herba, of the manufacture of Perſia, China, or Eaſt India, imported from Great Britain into the ſaid colonies. That a duty of 2s. 6d. ſterling per piece, be laid on all callicoes, painted, dyed, printed, or ſtained, in Perſia, China or Eaſt India, imported from Great Britain into the ſaid colonies. That a duty of 3s. ſterling per piece, be laid on all foreign cambrick and French lawns imported from Great Britain into the ſaid colonies. That a duty of 7s. ſterling per cwt. be laid on all coffee, ſhipped in any Britiſh colony in America, in order to be exported or conveyed to any other place, except to Great Britain. That a duty of one halfpenny, ſterling, per lb. be laid on all pimento ſhipped in any Britiſh colony in America, in order to be exported to any other place except Great Britain. That an act of the ſixth of George II. chap. 13. be continued until September 30, 1764. That the ſaid act be, with the amendments, made perpetual, from September 29, 1764. That, after September 29, 1764, in lieu of the duty granted by the ſaid act upon melaſſes and ſyrups, a duty of 3d. ſterling per gallon, be laid on all melaſſes and ſyrups of the growth, produce, or manufacture of any foreign American colony, imported into the Britiſh colonies in America. That the produce of all the ſaid duties, and alſo of the duties which ſhall, from and after September 29, 1764, be raiſed, by virtue of the ſaid act, be paid into the receipt of his Majeſty's Exchequer, and there reſerved, to be from time to time diſpoſed of by Parliament, towards defraying the neceſſary expences of defending, protecting, and ſecuring, the Britiſh colonies in America. That, towards further defraying the ſaid expences, it may be proper to charge certain ſtamp duties in the ſaid colonies. That there be not any drawback allowed of any part of the rate or duty of the old ſubſidy on any foreign goods, except wines, of the growth, product, or manufacture of Europe, or the Eaſt Indies, exported from this kingdom to the Britiſh colonies in America. That no drawback be allowed of any part of any rate or duty upon white callicoes, or foreign linens, exported from this kingdom to the Britiſh colonies in America. That the duties impoſed in the Britiſh colonies in America, by an act of the twenty-fifth of Charles II. entitled, "An Act for the encouragement of the "Greenland and Eaſtland Trades, and for the better ſecuring the Plantation Trade," be declared to be ſterling money. That the importation of rum and ſpirits, of the produce or manufacture of any foreign American colony, into the Britiſh colonies in America, be prohibited. That the annuities, granted in 1761, for a certain term of 99 years, from January 5, 1761, transferable at the Bank of England, be, from January 5, 1764, with the conſent of the ſeveral proprietors, added to, and made a joint ſtock with, the annuities which were granted in 1762, for a certain term of 98 years, from January 5, 1762, transferable at the Bank of England; and that the charges and expences thereof be paid out of the ſinking fund, in the ſame manner as thoſe of the ſaid annuities granted in 1762, are paid and payable; and ſuch perſons as ſhall not, on or before June 1, 1764, ſignify their diſſent, in books to be opened at the Bank of England for that purpoſe, ſhall be deemed and taken to aſſent thereto.

1764 That the 3 per cent. annuities, granted in 1761, in reſpect of the ſum of 12,000,000 borrowed towards the ſupply of the year 1761, together with the charges and expences attending the ſame, be, with the like conſent of the ſeveral proprietors thereof, charged upon, and made payable out of the ſinking fund. That all the monies that have ariſen ſince January 5, 1764, or may hereafter ariſe, of the produce of the additional duty on ſtrong beer and ale, which was made a fund for payment of the 3 per cent. annuities, granted in reſpect of the ſum of 12,000,000 borrowed by virtue of an act of the firſt of George III. towards the ſupply of the year 1761, and alſo of the annuities for a certain term of 99 years, granted in reſpect of the ſame ſum, be made part of the ſinking fund. That, towards raiſing the ſupply granted to his Majeſty, there be iſſued and applied the ſum of two millions, out of ſuch monies as ſhall ariſe of the ſurpluſſes, exceſſes, or overplus monies, and other revenues, compoſing the ſinking fund, 2,000,000l.

MARCH 13.

That an additional duty of 1l. 2s. ſterling, per cwt. averdupois, be laid on all white or clayed ſugars, of the produce or manufacture of any foreign American colony, imported into any Britiſh colony in America. That the produce of the ſaid additional duty be paid into the receipt of his Majeſty's Exchequer, and there reſerved, to be, from time to time, diſpoſed of by Parliament, towards defraying the neceſſary expences of defending, protecting, and ſecuring the Britiſh colonies in America. That upon all wines, except French, exported as merchandize, from this kingdom to the Britiſh colonies in America, a drawback be allowed of all the duties paid on the importation of ſuch wines, except 3l. 10s. per tun, part of the additional duty of 4l. per tun, granted by an act made in the laſt ſeſſion of Parliament; and alſo except ſuch part of the duties paid upon wines, imported by ſtrangers or aliens, or in foreign ſhips, as exceeds what would have been payable upon ſuch wines, if the ſame had been imported by Britiſh ſubjects, and in Britiſh ſhips. That no allowance be made for leakage, upon the importation of any wines into this kingdom, unleſs ſuch wines be imported directly from the place of their growth, or from the uſual place of their firſt ſhipping, except only Madeira wines, imported from any of the Britiſh colonies in America, or from the Eaſt Indies. That any perſon, or perſons, be permitted to import, in ſhips belonging to his Majeſty's ſubjects, whale fins, taken from whales caught, by any of his Majeſty's ſubjects, in the gulph or river of St. Lawrence, or in any ſeas on the coaſts of any of his Majeſty's colonies in America, without paying any cuſtom, ſubſidy, or duty for the ſame, except the rate or duty of the old ſubſidy, for the term of ſeven years, from December 25, 1763.

MARCH 15.

That the duties now payable on beaver ſkins imported into Great Britain, from his Majeſty's dominions in America, do ceaſe; and that there be granted to his Majeſty in lieu thereof, a duty of 7d. on each beaver ſkin exported from Great Britain. That there be granted to his Majeſty a duty of 1s. 6d. per lb. for all beaver wool exported from Great Britain. That the ſaid duties be made applicable to the ſame purpoſes, to which the former duties upon beaver ſkins were applied. That no drawback be allowed upon beaver ſkins exported from Great Britain.

MARCH 22.

That there be raiſed by loans or Exchequer bills, to be charged upon the firſt aids to be granted in the next ſeſſion, and ſuch Exchequer bills, if not diſcharged, with intereſt thereupon, on or before April 5, 1765, to be exchanged and received in payment in the uſual manner,

the

A. D.
1764 the ſum of 800,000l. That the ſum of 3,497l. 9s. 9d. remaining in the receipt of the Exchequer, being the ſurplus of the ſeveral duties upon beer and ale, granted by an act of the firſt of his Majeſty's reign, be iſſued and applied towards making good the ſupply granted in this ſeſſion. That ſuch part of the ſum of 150,000l. granted in the laſt ſeſſion for defraying the charge of the pay and cloathing of the militia, for one year, beginning March 25, 1763, as ſhall remain in the receipt of the Exchequer, after the ſaid charge is ſatisfied, be iſſued and applied towards raiſing the ſupply granted in this ſeſſion. That the act of the fifth of George the Second, chap. 28. is near expiring, and fit to be continued. That the act of the ſixth of George II. chap. 33. is near expiring, and fit to be continued. That the act of the twenty-ſecond of George II. chap. 45. is near expiring, and fit to be continued.

RECAPITULATION.

By the two reſolutions of December 8.	2,787,854	19	11
By the reſolution of February 9.	1,110,000	0	0
By the twenty-ſecond reſolution of March 10.	2,000,000	0	0
By the firſt and ſecond reſolutions of March 2.	803,497	9	9
To which if we add, firſt, the liquidated proviſions made by the committee of ſupply, as follows:			
By the ſixth and ſeventh reſolutions of March 1.	163,558	3	$3\frac{9}{11}$
By the ſecond reſolution of April 7.	170,906	2	8
Secondly, The net produce of the French prizes taken before the declaration of war, and veſted in the crown, but graciouſly given up by his Majeſty for the ſervice of the public,	723,758	0	0
Sum total of the liquidated proviſions will be	7,759,574	15	$7\frac{9}{11}$
Exceſs of proviſions,	47,011	17	$0\frac{23}{55}$

A general account of the public debts at the receipt of the Exchequer, ſtanding out January 5, 1764, with the annual intereſt, &c.

	Principal Debt.			*Annual Intereſt, &c.*		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
* Exchequer,	2,021,981	12	$9\frac{1}{2}$	153,164	4	8
Eaſt India Company,	4,200,000	0	0	127,687	10	0
Bank of England,	96,239,498	3	$3\frac{1}{4}$	3,238,789	5	$5\frac{1}{2}$
By remaining annuities of one life each, granted on the lotteries of 1745 and 1746.—Ditto on the 3 per cent. annuities of 1757 and 1761; as alſo on the annuities of 1 per cent. for 98 years to the ſubſcribers to the loan of 12,000,000l. granted for the ſervice of the year 1762, together with the charges of management to the Bank of England,				339,979	9	9
South Sea Company,	27,125,309	13	$11\frac{1}{2}$	829,507	14	$1\frac{1}{2}$
Total,	129,586,789	10	$0\frac{1}{4}$	4,689,128	2	0

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* The land taxes and duties on malt, being annual grants, are not charged in this account, nor the 1,000,000l. charged on the deduction of 6d. per pound on penſions, nor the ſum of 1,800,000l. charged on the ſurplus, in the year 1764.

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1764

IMPORTS and EXPORTS, from CHRISTMAS 1763, to CHRISTMAS 1764.

Countries.	*Imports.*			*Exports.*		
Africa,	£. 35,738	9	2	£. 464,878	14	2
Canaries,	3,158	10	7	31,867	10	2
Denmark and Norway,	85,027	9	6	141,534	5	5
East Country,	224,499	8	1	290,331	6	9
East India,	1,182,844	18	6	1,165,600	12	4
Flanders,	145,772	2	3	546,777	16	10
France,	95,430	19	11	208,765	14	8
Germany,	606,410	1	2	2,379,315	3	9
Greenland,	7,936	17	—	—	—	—
Holland,	371,730	2	2	2,040,467	9	9
Ireland,	777,412	19	8	1,634,382	1	8
Italy,	810,902	9	5	754,446	4	2
Madeiras	5,792	9	3	40,152	12	6
Portugal,	312,974	8	5	1,244,198	6	7
Russia,	920,293	12	3	67,952	8	6
Spain,	503,489	6	4	1,318,345	4	11
Streights,	32,271	4	11	120,574	9	7
Sweden,	253,280	1	11	28,351	4	7
Turkey,	191,565	16	—	70,008	16	11
Venice,	54,992	10	5	9,952	11	10
Britiſh and Iriſh linens per bounty,	—	—	—	24,863	9	2
Alderney,	173	10	1	1,104	3	2
Belle-Iſle,		4	6	—	—	—
Guernſey,	27,075	15	11	34,064	19	4
Jerſey,	18,282	0	5	19,353	1	1
Antigua,	307,392	6	8	63,136	10	10
Barbadoes,	300,213	17	3	181,710	11	3
Bermudas,	165	11	1	10,534	3	7
Canada,	44,669	9	5	251,385	12	6
Carolina,	341,727	12	7	305,808	1	6
Dominica,	31,894	6	2	16,415	12	6
Florida,	294	3	4	15,004	15	7
Georgia,	31,325	9	4	18,338	2	11
Granades,	206,889	13	6	65,935	3	9
Guadaloupe,	33,551	17	—	—	—	—
Havannah,	5,735	8	—	—	—	—
Hudſon's Bay,	9,272	9	2	3,892	11	2
Jamaica,	1,076,155	1	9	456,528	1	11
Martinico,	3,169	6	8	—	—	—
Montſerrat,	82,966	15	—	7,532	8	9
Nevis,	60,952	11	2	7,934	16	5
New England,	88,157	1	9	459,765	—	11
Newfoundland,	30,354	2	4	72,588	6	3
New Providence,	4,436	6	7	2,808	6	9
New York,	53,697	10	4	515,416	12	1
Nova Scotia,	32	19	3	15,434	17	—
Pennſylvania,	36,258	18	1	435,191	14	—
St. Croix,	8,681	12	6	6,625	16	10
St. John's Iſland,	80	17	2	—	—	—
St. Kitt's,	283,842	4	1	98,321	8	2
St. Euſtatia,	917	—	10	—	—	—
St. Vincent,	—	—	—	971	15	2
Tortola,	41,549	1	11	2,485	1	—
Tobago,	—	—	—	349	8	5
Virginia and Maryland,	559,408	16	1	515,192	10	6
Spaniſh Weſt Indies,	9,398	11	3	—	—	—
Foreign coin and bullion,	—	—	—	310,024	19	6
Prize goods,	44,361	5	2	35,782	19	2
Totals,	10,364,307	12	3	16,512,403	16	3
Exports exceed the Imports,				6,148,096	4	0

1764 On the 28th day of Auguſt died, Sir John Barnard, Knight, Alderman and Father of the city of London, which he had repreſented in ſix ſucceſſive Parliaments. His aſſiduity as a magiſtrate, his abilities as a ſenator, and his integrity as a man, rendered him one of the moſt reſpectable and popular characters of the times in which he lived. As a teſtimony of public gratitude for the great ſervices he rendered to the trade of his country, the merchants of London cauſed his ſtatue to be erected, during his life, on the Royal Exchange; a ſolid honour which envy never attempted to mutilate, and party ſpirit never wiſhed to remove. Theſe pages, devoted to record the annals of Britiſh commerce, would ſurely have been very deficient, if they had neglected to mention the name and honours of this great commercial character.

Extract from the general bill of all the chriſtenings and burials within the city of London, from December 13, 1763, to December 11, 1764.

Chriſtened, Males,	8,593	Buried, Males,	11,503
Females,	8,208	Females,	11,699
	16,801		23,202

Amſterdam, died, 8,585; born, 5,896.

Brunſwick, died, 970; born, 1,219; marriages, 361.

Denmark, died, 27,167; born, 25,756.

Norway, died, 19,386; born 21,236.

The dutchies of Sleſwick and Holſtein, lordſhips of Pinnenberg, and the city of Altena, died, 11,865; born 13,159.

Dreſden, died, 1,460; born, 1,842; marriages, 445.

Drontheim, died, 4,128; born, 5,045.

Dublin, died, 2,307; born, 1,999.

Francfort on the Maine, died, 983; baptized, 922; marriages, 218.

Haerlem, died, 910; born, 880.

Hague, died, 1,113.

Hannau, died, 430; born, 457; marriages, 145.

Leipſick, died in the city, 479; in the ſuburbs, 520; born, 974; marriages, 377.

Ratiſbon, of the Proteſtant congregation died, 260; born, 227; marriages, 67.

Rotterdam, died, 1,735; marriages, 155.

Paris, died, 17,199; born, 19,404; marriages, 4,838; foundling children, 5,560.

Cheſter, from January 1, 1764, to January 1, 1765, died, 452; chriſtened, 383; marriages, 149.

Mancheſter and Salford, died, 754; born, 886; marriages, 447.

We ſhall conclude this year with obſerving, that the Houſe of Commons paſſed a vote, that it was juſt and requiſite to eſtabliſh ſtamp duties in America, ſimilar to thoſe already ſettled in Great Britain, towards defraying the expences neceſſary for the protection of the colonies. This was the firſt, though unſuſpected ſtep to that ſcene of domeſtic diſcontent, which ended in a war the moſt important that ever employed the arms of Great Britain.

1765 The act for impoſing a tax on ſtamps in America, which was the parliamentary offspring of this year, will be, of courſe, a principal object of our attention in relating the events of it; and though

A. D. 1765 though it is a ſubject which has been ſo minutely conſidered by the national mind, yet as its conſequences will form ſuch a very conſiderable feature in this work, we ſhould be naturally conſidered as very deficient, if we were entirely to paſs over, in this place, the circumſtances which led to, and accompanied the enaction of it.

No war was ever terminated with greater glory than that which Great Britain carried on againſt the combined powers of France and Spain, and was concluded by the treaty of Paris, in 1763. The power and energy of the Britiſh nation had been conducted by the greateſt miniſter, perhaps, that ever guided the councils of any empire; and partaking, as it were, of his active, unconquerable ſpirit, commanded that ſucceſſion of victories, both by ſea and land, in every part of the globe, which made Europe tremble with aſtoniſhment, and diſſipated the boaſted ſtrength of the houſe of Bourbon.

At length the peace of 1763 put a final period to this memorable war; and Great Britain became poſſeſſed of the immenſe continent of North America, from the banks of the Miſſiſippi to the ſhores of Greenland. She acquired ſeveral valuable iſlands in the Weſt Indies, and eſtabliſhed herſelf in the oriental world with ſuch augmented poſſeſſion and added ſtrength, as to poſſeſs a decided ſuperiority over all other European nations who carry on any commerce, and poſſeſs any ſettlements in thoſe diſtant countries.

But while the eye of patriotiſm gazed with peculiar delight on this ſplendid ſcene of Britiſh glory, the pervading ſpirit of political prophecy was not backward in imparting its apprehenſions of that miſchief which has ſince ariſen from it.

The entire ceſſion of the French poſſeſſions in North America, was a ſubject of trembling expectation in the minds of many who were, by no means, in the habit of employing their reaſon in idle ſpeculations. While this vaſt extent of country remained in the poſſeſſion of France, it certainly operated as a powerful reſtraint upon the colonies, and by keeping them in perpetual alarms, obliged them to have continual recourſe to the parent ſtate for aid and protection. The acquiſition therefore of Canada, &c. by freeing the Britiſh North American colonies from all apprehenſions on that dangerous quarter, afforded them a ſecurity which they had never known; and, of courſe, gave leiſure for the progreſs of thoſe ideas, which otherwiſe might indeed have occaſionally riſen into exiſtence, but would never have attained to any degree of maturity.

While France poſſeſſed this ceded territory, ſhe muſt, in the moſt confidential moments of peace, have been conſidered, from her American poſition, excluſive of all other circumſtances, as a natural enemy to Britiſh America; and while that idea remained, the connection between Great Britain and her Colonies muſt have ſubſiſted. The one would have wanted protection, and the other would have required obedience; and theſe reciprocal obligations would have preſerved their union unbroken in every circumſtance of it.

Thus the concluſion of the war between Great Britain and France, placed the North American colonies in a ſituation of advantage which they had never before known, and gave them an unexperienced opportunity to exert all that natural vigour which they have ſince manifeſted. That they ſhould now begin to feel their conſequence, was a matter of natural expectation; and that the wiſh to realize it, in ſome degree, by enlarging their privileges, or preſſing a little on what might be conſidered as the exuberance of parental authority, ſhould be encouraged among them, was the reſult of their proſperous and powerful condition.

The

A. D. 1765 The advantages which the Americans poſſeſſed were numerous; nor did they want a ſpirit to add to the number of them. Their interior trade, as well as external commerce, was greatly increaſed; their population augmented, their agriculture extended, and their knowlege enlarged. While they poſſeſſed frugality and induſtry, thoſe two leading principles of private and public proſperity, they could boaſt an ardent, but well-directed ſpirit of commercial enterprize; and though they declared a moſt faithful attachment to Great Britain, and had manifeſted, on all occaſions, a dutiful obedience to its government, yet the republican ſpirit which had led their anceſtors to the American deſarts, was preſerved amongſt them with a traditional devotion, particularly in the New England provinces, and remained a latent principle of action, ready to break forth whenever any events ſhould take place which might encourage its exertion. Nor is it a matter of dubious relation, that to attain a ſtate of political independence, was a favourite, as it had been a conſtant hope, with many perſons of character and influence, from the earlieſt times of their colonization, till it was univerſally adopted in that conteſt which obtained it for them.

But this was not all:—The French, long before the commencement of the war in 1756, gave very unequivocal proofs of their deſire to effect a ſeparation between England and its North American colonies; and when that war had finally deprived them of all expectation of gaining any point by the power of their arms, they began to practiſe thoſe intrigues, and employ thoſe artifices, which have ſo often ſerved that treacherous nation with better effect than more honourable exertions. They employed their ſecret, but active emiſſaries, to diſſeminate ſuch opinions as were beſt calculated to raiſe the political importance of America in the opinion of its inhabitants, and to diſpoſe them to look with a jealous eye on the regulating power of the mother country. Such arts were practiſed with perſeverance and with ſucceſs.

The nations of Europe were alſo growing into what might be conſidered, by the impartial politician, as a reaſonable jealouſy of the amazing power of Great Britain, and would have rejoiced to ſee a limb broken off from that coloſſal greatneſs of our country which ſeemed to beſtride the globe.

At this time, therefore, and when all theſe circumſtances were evident to the moſt common obſervation, it was ſurely the true policy of Great Britain to have employed the moſt temperate meaſures in her government of the American colonies; and it was at this moment that ſhe began to exerciſe her power, though not indeed without conſideration; for the miniſter of that period was not in the habit of committing raſh actions.

Mr. Grenville poſſeſſed an uncommon ſpirit of induſtry, great financial knowledge, and unimpeached integrity: but with theſe, and other eminent qualities, there was a contraction of mind in his character, that was much better ſuited to the detail of an inferior department than the conduct of a great empire. He felt the weight of debt, amounting at this time to one hundred and forty-eight millions, which oppreſſed his country, and he looked to the melioration of the revenues as the only mode of relieving it. He was right in principle, but wrong in practice.—He had ſtudied the public revenues with a profeſſional aſſiduity, and profeſſional ideas ſeemed to mingle in all his regulations concerning them. The methods which were now adopted to prevent ſmuggling, might not have been attended with any unpleaſant conſequences, if they had been confined to the coaſts of Great Britain and Ireland; but by extending them to the ſhores of America, they interrupted a commerce, which though not ſtrictly legal, was extremely advantageous to the colonies. They were therefore in a ſtate of no common diſcontent on account of the acts of the Britiſh Parliament which added to their reſtraints,

A. D. 1765 when the ſtamp act appeared to heighten their reſentment, and raiſe a kind of private diſpleaſure into public remonſtrance and general oppoſition.

A number of armed cutters were ſtationed around the coaſts of Great Britain, and the moſt rigid orders were iſſued to the commanders of them to act in the capacity of revenue officers. They were enjoined to take the uſual cuſtom-houſe oaths, and to obſerve the regulations preſcribed by them. Thus was the diſtinguiſhed character of a Britiſh naval officer degraded by the employments of a tide-waiter, and that active, zealous courage which had been accuſtomed to the conqueſt of an enemy, was now to be exerted in oppoſing a contraband trade, and to find a reward in the ſeizure of prohibited commodities.

The clamour againſt theſe meaſures was loud in England; but in America the diſcontent on the occaſion was little ſhort of outrage. As naval gentlemen, the commanders of theſe veſſels were not converſant in the duties of revenue collection, they were therefore oftentimes guilty of oppreſſion: remedies were indeed at hand in England; but as the Lords of the Admiralty or the Treaſury could alone rectify any errors, check any violence, puniſh any injuſtice, or reſtore any violated property, it was always extremely difficult, and in many caſes almoſt impracticable, for the Americans to obtain redreſs.

But bad as this evil was, there aroſe one, from the ſame ſource, which was ſtill worſe.—A trade had been carried on for more than a century between the Britiſh and Spaniſh colonies in the new world, to the great advantage of both, but eſpecially the former, as well as of the mother country; the chief materials of it being on the ſide of the Britiſh colonies, Britiſh manufactures, or ſuch of their own produce as enabled them to purchaſe Britiſh manufactures for their own conſumption; and, on the part of the Spaniards, gold and ſilver in bullion and coin, cochineal, and medicinal drugs, beſide live ſtock and mules; which, in the Weſt India plantations, to which places alone theſe laſt articles were carried, from their great utility, juſtly deſerved to be conſidered of equal importance with the moſt precious metals.

This trade did not claſh with the ſpirit of any act of Parliament made for the regulation of the Britiſh plantation trade; or, at leaſt with that ſpirit of trade which univerſally prevails in our commercial acts: but it was found to vary ſufficiently from the letter of the former, to give the new revenue officers a plea for doing that from principles of duty, which there were no ſmall temptations to do from the more powerful motives of intereſt. Accordingly, they ſeized, indiſcriminately, all the ſhips upon that trade, both of ſubjects and foreigners; which the cuſtom-houſe officers ſtationed on ſhore, either through fear of the inhabitants, a more juſt way of thinking, or an happy ignorance, had always permitted to paſs unnoticed.

As the advantage of this commerce was very much in favour of Great Britain, the Spaniſh monarchy had always oppoſed it: guarda-coſtas were commiſſioned to ſcour the coaſts of her American dominions, and to ſeize every veſſel which approached too near them; a duty which they had exerciſed with ſuch general licence, as to provoke the war which broke out in 1739. The Britiſh cruizers ſeemed to act at this time with the ſame ſpirit in deſtroying this commerce, ſo that in a ſhort ſpace of time it was almoſt wholly annihilated.

This circumſtance was to the northern colonies a deprivation of the moſt ſerious nature.—This traffic had long proved the mine from whence they drew thoſe ſupplies of gold and ſilver that enabled them to make copious remittances to England, and to provide a ſufficiency of current ſpecie at home. A ſudden ſtop being thus put to ſuch a ſource of advantage, the Americans expreſſed the injury they ſuſtained in the harſheſt terms that a ſenſe of injury could inſpire. But in ſpite of all complaints, the miniſtry continued to proceed in their unfortunate

career,

1765 career, and meaſures equally offenſive to the inhabitants of the North American colonies continued to be ſucceſſively adopted.

Beſides this trade carried on between the Britiſh colonies in general, eſpecially thoſe in the Weſt Indies, and the Spaniſh, there had for a long time ſubſiſted one equally extenſive between the Britiſh North American colonies in particular, and thoſe of the French Weſt Indies, to the great advantage of both, as it conſiſted chiefly in ſuch goods as muſt otherwiſe have remained upon the hands of the poſſeſſors; ſo that it united, in the ſtricteſt ſenſe, all thoſe benefits which liberal minds include in the idea of a well regulated commerce, as tending, in the higheſt degree, to the mutual welfare of thoſe who were concerned in it.

In theſe benefits the reſpective mother countries had, without doubt, a very large ſhare, though it may be impoſſible to determine which, upon the whole, had the moſt. We had enough to engage thoſe in power to think it worth connivance, for it certainly was not ſtrictly to law, in conſideration of the vaſt quantity of manufactures it enabled our American colonies to take from us; and this alſo, in ſpite of all the clamours which thoſe concerned in our Weſt India trade and poſſeſſions could raiſe againſt it, as enabling the French to underſell them in Weſt India produce at the foreign markets. This outcry might indeed be found to ariſe, in a great meaſure, from another conſideration, which it was not ſo proper for theſe gentlemen to avow, that of their not getting ſo good a price as otherwiſe they might expect, for ſuch part of their produce as they ſold in the markets of their mother country; and which, conſidering the vaſt demand for it, even by the poor, to whom, from long habit, it is become one of the chief neceſſaries of life, it would have ſavoured of oppreſſion if it had been permitted to advance in price. But, be that as it may, this trade was ſuffered to be carried on in the late war between Great Britain and France; directly, by means of flags of truce; and indirectly, through the Dutch and Daniſh iſlands; and afterwards through the Spaniſh port of Monte Chriſti, in the iſland of Hiſpaniola; till, at laſt, the vaſt advantages the French received from it above what the Engliſh could expect, in conſequence of our having, in a manner, laid ſiege to all their Weſt India iſlands, determined government to put a ſtop to it.

In doing this, however, they did not think proper to conſider it ſo much in the light of a contraband trade, as in that of a treaſonable practice, by ſupplying the enemy with neceſſaries, without which it would have been impoſſible for theſe valuable iſlands to hold out ſo long againſt our attempts to reduce them. Accordingly, as ſoon as the concluſion of the war had taken the appellation of treaſon from this trade, it returned again to its priſtine, flouriſhing condition; and thus it remained, till it ſunk beneath the ſame blow with the trade between us and the Spaniards, whoſe hiſtory we have already related.

This trade not only prevented our North American colonies from being drained of their current caſh, by the calls of the mother country upon them, but added greatly to it, ſo as to make it, in ſome meaſure, keep pace with their domeſtic trade, which could not but greatly increaſe in proportion to the remarkable increaſe of mankind in a part of the world, where the cheapneſs of land determines ſo great a part of the inhabitants to the exerciſe of the rural arts, which are known to be ſo favourable to population.

Though the ſuppreſſion of that trade which we have juſt been relating, inſtead of barely interrupting theſe ſupplies of the neceſſaries and conveniencies of life, which the North American colonies were before accuſtomed to receive in return for their ſuperfluities and incumbrances, tended viſibly, by obſtructing their internal commerce, to deprive them, in a great degree, even of thoſe bleſſings, the ſources of which lay within themſelves; yet a law was made

A. D. 1765 made in the beginning of the laſt year, which, whilſt it rendered legal, in ſome reſpects, their intercourſe with the other European colonies in the new world, loaded the beſt part of it with duties ſo far above its ſtrength to bear, as to render it contraband to all intents and purpoſes. Beſides, it ordered the money ariſing from theſe duties to be paid, and in ſpecie, into the Britiſh Exchequer, to the entire draining of the little ready money which might be ſtill remaining in the colonies; and within a fortnight after, another law was paſſed to hinder the colonies from ſupplying the demand of money for their internal wants, by preventing ſuch paper bills of credit as might be afterwards in them, from being made legal tender in payment; and the legal tender of ſuch bills as were actually ſubſiſting, from being prolonged beyond the periods already limited for calling in and ſinking the ſame.

Theſe new regulations following each other ſo rapidly, produced an equal degree of ſurprize and diſcontent among the people of North America. Warm and ſpirited remonſtrances were ſent to England on the occaſion. Among other arguments they alleged, that ſuch reſtraints upon their trade were abſolutely ruinous, as they tended to put an end to the clearing of their lands, and damped the proſecution of their fiſheries. They alſo aſſerted, that unleſs thoſe foreign ports where they depoſited the ſurplus of their corn, and of the proviſions of all kinds with which their country abounded, were freely opened to them, they knew not whither to carry them. The Britiſh iſlands in the Weſt Indies were not equal to their conſumption, and Great Britain did not want them: it was abſolutely neceſſary, therefore, that ſome places for the diſpoſal of them ſhould be permitted, where they might fetch a reaſonable price.

But ſuch remonſtrances, though founded in national policy, were not regarded, and the Americans became determined to unite in a general oppoſition to the views of the Britiſh miniſtry. Public meetings were held, and reſolutions were entered into, to make no further importations from Great Britain but ſuch as unavoidable neceſſity required; and to encourage, to the utmoſt of their power, every kind of manufacture that was practicable among themſelves. Theſe reſolutions were ſteadily obſerved in America, and their effects were ſeriouſly felt in England: the manufacturers began to expreſs their alarms; and miniſters found that trans-Atlantic diſcontents were re-echoed in their own ſtreets.

It is indeed proper to obſerve, that all the money ariſing from the above duties, was to be reſerved for defraying the charges of protecting the colonies on which it was levied; and that, at the ſame time, with the law for reſtraining the increaſe of paper money, ſeveral new laws were made to encreaſe and encourage, as well as regulate, the commercial intercourſe of our North American colonies with the mother country: ſuch as a bill for granting leave, for a limited time, for carrying rice from the provinces of South Carolina and Georgia to other parts of America, on paying Britiſh duties; a bill for granting a bounty on the importation of hemp, as well as rough and undreſſed flax, from the American colonies to Great Britain; and a bill to encourage the whale-fiſhery on their coaſts. But, unfortunately, the effects of all theſe laws to reſtrain the foreign, and cramp the domeſtic trade of the colonies, were certain and inſtantaneous; whereas the effects of the laws made for their benefit, which might compenſate, in ſome degree, for theſe evils, was, if not uncertain, at leaſt remote.

The miniſter, from whoſe honeſt, but miſtaken intentions to ſerve his country, proceeded all the regulations and laws relating to the Britiſh colonies which we have already mentioned, thought it right that a meaſure of ſo much importance and novelty as the paſſing a law to levy a tax in North America, ſhould not be brought forward without giving the colonies who were to pay the tax, and the members of both Houſes, who were to join in paſſing the act, ſufficient

A. D. 1765 opportunity to make it an object of deliberate conſideration. He had alſo another reaſon for poſtponing all further proceedings upon the reſolution of laſt ſeſſion, for impoſing a ſtamp duty in America, which was to give the colonies time to offer a compenſation for the revenue ſuch a tax might produce. But this conduct in the miniſter, which was repreſented by many as a rare example of political moderation and candour, did not receive ſuch a favourable interpretation from the colonies who were the objects of it. They ſeemed to conſider it as an affront rather than a compliment; and inſtead of offering a compenſation for the propoſed duty, ſome of them tranſmitted petitions to be preſented to the King, Lords, and Commons, poſitively and directly queſtioning the authority and juriſdiction of Parliament over their properties.

The vote, indeed, concerning the propriety of laying a ſtamp duty on the colonies, paſſed the lower Houſe of Parliament, in the preceding ſeſſion, without interruption; but the final completion of the object of that vote, in paſſing it into a law, was attended with very ſerious and able debates, both as to the right of the Britiſh legiſlature to tax the colonies without their concurrence; and, ſuppoſing that right to exiſt, the expediency of exerciſing it for the purpoſe in agitation. The bill, however, made its way through both Houſes, under the ſanction of great majorities; and, at laſt, his Majeſty being indiſpoſed, received the royal aſſent by commiſſion on the 22d of March.

Beſides the clauſe in this bill which enacted, that the money ariſing from the duties impoſed by it ſhould be reſerved for defraying the charge of protecting the colonies, there paſſed another bill to encourage the importation of all kinds of timber from them; which, conſidering how plentiful that article is in moſt parts of North America, might, in ſome places, compenſate for the operations of the ſtamp duty; at leaſt much more ſo than the douceurs allowed in the preceding ſeſſion could counteract the effects of the import and export duties laid on at the ſame time. But the colonies were too much ſoured to be brought, at preſent, to any moderate degree of temper, but by an immediate removal of the principal grievance. For no ſooner did the news of the ſtamp act having received the royal aſſent arrive in America, than the anxiety of fearful expectation turned to fury, and broke out into action in every part of that continent. Boſton, the capital of New England, where this afflicting intelligence, very unfortunately, firſt arrived, expreſſed its reſentment in a manner perfectly conformable to its republican character, and offered an example of outrageous oppoſition to the reſt of the colonies: the colours of the ſhipping in the harbour were diſplayed half-maſt high, in token of the deepeſt mourning,—the bells rang muffled,—the act itſelf was printed with the decoration of a death's-head, and cried publicly about the ſtreets, by the title of "The Folly of England, "and the Ruin of America."

Theſe firſt effuſions of rage and reſentment were followed by a ſeries of the moſt ſevere attacks from the public papers. The act itſelf was treated with the moſt ignominious contempt; it was publicly committed to the flames, in ſeveral places, by the enraged populace, together with the effigies of ſuch as were imagined to have been the principal promoters of it.

While the lower claſſes perpetrated every kind of outrage, the higher order of people did not interfere to obſtruct them. They ſaw, perhaps, with ſecret ſatisfaction, how well they could be ſupported in the determination they had formed to reſiſt the deſigns of Great Britain. Even the aſſemblies themſelves connived, in fact, at theſe tumultuous proceedings, by declining to aſſiſt their governors, and other officers inveſted with lawful authority, either with their advice or countenance. They left them to act ſingly, as they might think proper, without giving themſelves

A. D. 1765 ſelves any concern about the riots, the perſons who excited them, or thoſe who ſuffered in conſequence of them.

When the account of this ſtate of American diſcontent was received in England, ſeveral maſters of ſhips refuſed to take any ſtamps on board for the colonies, and it ſoon appeared that their precaution was well-founded; for ſuch as ventured to take them, had great reaſon to repent it, on arriving at their deſtined ports; where, to ſave their veſſels from fire, and themſelves from the gallows, moſt of them were obliged to ſurrender their execrated cargoes into the hands of the enraged multitude, to be treated in the ſame ignominious manner in which the act itſelf had been treated; while the reſt were glad to take ſhelter under the guns of ſuch of the King's ſhips as happened to be at hand to protect them.

Thoſe gentlemen who came from England with commiſſions to act as diſtributors, fared ſtill worſe: in ſhort, the temper of all ranks of people againſt this act was as violent as it was univerſal. The aſſemblies themſelves, from being ſilent ſpectators of theſe popular commotions, became at length the principal actors in the important ſcenes that followed.

Encouraged by what they ſaw, and what they daily heard from all parts of the continent, they ſoon avowed their ſentiments in the face of the world, and openly declared that the authority aſſumed over North America was illegal, and that Great Britain had no right to impoſe taxes upon them without their free conſent.

In theſe reſolutions the concurrence of the colonies was univerſal: though they differed in a variety of eſſential points, both civil and religious, there was no diſſenting voice among them in their oppoſition to the deſigns of the Britiſh miniſtry.

On the 29th of May, Virginia took the lead, and began the work of an unreſerved denial to the requiſitions of the mother country.

On the 8th of June, Maſſachuſett's Bay voted 450l. to pay the expences of their three delegates to Congreſs.

On the 26th of Auguſt, the rioters at Boſton deſtroyed the lieutenant-governor's houſe.

On the 1ſt of October, the firſt general continental Congreſs was held at New York; who, after ſeveral reſolutions, declarations, &c. petitioned his Majeſty for a redreſs of grievances.

On the 5th of October, the aſſembly of Maſſachuſett's Bay deemed it lawful to do buſineſs without ſtamps; and the militia refuſed to obey the orders of the governor.

Indeed, ſo very univerſal had the oppoſition to the ſtamp act been, and ſo very ſucceſsful in its operations, that by the 1ſt of November, the time when the act took place, not a ſheet of ſtamped paper was to be had throughout the ſeveral colonies of New York, New England, New Jerſey, Virginia, Maryland, or the two Carolinas, except a ſmall parcel which the governor of New York, terrified by the threats of the enraged populace, had ſurrendered into the hands of the corporation of that place, on condition that it ſhould not be deſtroyed, as the reſt had been: ſo that all buſineſs which could not be legally carried on without ſtamps, was totally interrupted, except that of news-printing, which the printers ſtill continued, pleading in excuſe, that if they did not, the populace would treat them with the ſame rigour which had been exerciſed towards the ſtamp diſtributors.

But the conſequences of this ſtagnation ſoon began to be ſo ſeverely felt, that the inhabitants, who were ſtill unwilling to ſubmit to the act, began to think how they could effectually elude it. At length, the governors of ſome of the provinces, though bound by the act to ſwear to ſee it obſerved, under the ſevereſt penalties, thinking, with ſome reaſon, the total ſtoppage of all public buſineſs of ſuch bad conſequence to the community, as to render lawful

1765 ful the non-compliance with any injunctions laid on them, or even the breach of any oath taken by them in conſequence of injunctions, merely for the ſake of that community, thought proper to diſpenſe with the uſe of ſtamps, grounding their diſpenſation on the abſolute impoſſibility of procuring any; and, accordingly, granted certificates of that impoſſibility to all outward-bound veſſels, to protect them from the penalties of the act in other parts of his Majeſty's dominions.

Among the different methods which the Americans adopted to avoid any injury from this act, thoſe which we are about to relate appear to be the beſt.—The merchants of all thoſe colonies that ventured to give it a declared oppoſition, entered into the moſt ſolemn engagements with each other, not only to diſcontinue the ordering any more goods from Great Britain, and recal the orders they had already given, if not obeyed by the firſt of January, 1766, but even not to diſpoſe of any Britiſh goods ſent them on commiſſion, that were not ſhipped before that day; or, if they conſented to any relaxation from theſe engagements, it was not to take place till the ſtamp act, and even the ſugar and paper money acts were repealed.

The people of Philadelphia likewiſe reſolved, though not unanimouſly, that till ſuch repeal, no lawyer ſhould put in ſuit a demand for money owing by a reſident in America to any one reſiding in England; and that no perſon in America, however indebted in England, ſhould make any remittances there. Theſe reſolutions were adopted by the retailers, who unanimouſly agreed not to buy or ſell any Britiſh goods ſhipped contrary to them.

Ireland, however, received conſiderable advantage from theſe proceedings, as thoſe goods and commodities which were abſolutely neceſſary, they imported from that country, in exchange for their hemp and flax-ſeed, of which they yearly ſend her very large quantities. In the mean time, however, they omitted no methods to free themſelves even from this dependence.

A ſociety of arts, manufactures, and commerce, on the plan of that eſtabliſhed in London, was inſtituted at New York, and markets opened for the ſale of home-made goods; by which it ſoon appeared, that neither the natives nor the manufacturers who had, for ſome time paſt, been invited from Britain, by very ample encouragements, had been idle. Linens, woollens, ſome of the coarſer kinds of iron ware, malt ſpirits, paper hangings, &c. were produced to the ſociety, and when offered to ſale, as greedily purchaſed. At the ſame time, leſt the new woollen manufactories ſhould be checked by a dearth of materials, moſt of the inhabitants came to a reſolution not to eat any lamb, and not to deal with any butcher who ſhould kill or expoſe lamb to ſale. In ſhort, an increaſed ſpirit of induſtry and frugality univerſally prevailed; the moſt wealthy, and even faſhionable people, were foremoſt in ſetting an example of theſe virtues to their countrymen, by wearing home-ſpun cloaths, rather than make uſe of Britiſh manufactures, which, till this unfortunate period, they favoured with the moſt partial preference. A reſolution was alſo, at this time, in contemplation, of ſtopping the exportation of tobacco from Virginia and South Carolina to Great Britain; by which, conſidering the great quantities of that article re-exported from Great Britain, and the immenſe ſum ſo imperceptibly raiſed by what ſhe herſelf conſumes of it, her trade, and eſpecially her revenue, could not fail of being conſiderably affected.

Thus did the ſix principal Britiſh colonies of North America, viz. New England, New York, New Jerſey, Pennſylvania, Virginia, the two Carolinas, and Maryland, conduct themſelves in conſequence of the ſtamp act, from the time of their firſt hearing of its being voted in Parliament to be a proper meaſure, till they were aſſured of its abſolute repeal. The other

A. D. 1765 North American colonies, poſſibly more from a ſenſe of their weakneſs than a principle of duty, thought proper to ſubmit to it, but not all with equal grace. The Weſt India iſlands manifeſted a ready ſubmiſſion, on this occaſion, to the mother country, except St. Chriſtopher's and Nevis, whoſe populace ſuffered themſelves to be ſo far impoſed on by the crews of ſome New England veſſels in their harbours, as to rival the violence of the continental Americans. Here then we muſt quit this important ſubject, till the hiſtory of the ſucceeding year calls us to the renewal of it.

In the ſpring of this year, no common apprehenſions were entertained for the public tranquillity, by the numerous aſſembling and diſcontented ſtate of the journeymen ſilk-weavers of London. Theſe labouring manufacturers being reinforced by thoſe of all the other trades more immediately depending upon that branch, conceiving themſelves greatly injured by the too free uſe of French ſilks, &c. aſſembled by beat of drum, with their wives and children, to the amount of many thouſands, in Spital-fields and Moor-fields, in order to petition the King and Parliament for redreſs, by a total prohibition of that article; and from thence proceeded, in different bodies, to St. James's and Weſtminſter Hall, and not only ſurrounded the palace and the two houſes of Parliament, but, by their numbers, in ſome meaſure obſtructed the communication between them. This appearance, together with the reports that the weavers of the inland towns, and their dependants in trade, were coming up to join their diſtreſſed brethren in London, could not fail of cauſing a very ſerious alarm throughout the metropolis; for had ſuch a junction of deſtitute, diſcontented people taken place, or even had the London ſilk manufacturers, inſtead of ſeeking redreſs from the head, taken upon them to redreſs themſelves, there is no ſaying how far the flame might have ſpread, or what fatal conſequences might have followed before it could have been extinguiſhed. But, providentially, they were prevented from committing any very violent outrage by the ſteady exertion of the civil, aided by the military power; and their diſpleaſure, after indulging itſelf in beſetting the houſe of the Duke of Bedford, who had delivered his ſentiments concerning them in the Houſe of Peers with uncommon ſeverity, and in breaking the windows of ſome houſes where French ſilks were ſuppoſed to be ſold, was finally appeaſed without further miſchief, by a ſeaſonable ſubſcription for their preſent relief, and an aſſociation among the principal ſilk mercers to recal all the orders they had given for foreign manufactures.

To make an applauſive mention of ſuch men as have extended commerce by their genius, improved it by their induſtry, or honoured it by their virtue, is our duty and our pleaſure:—It becomes us therefore to relate, that Stephen Theodore Janſen, Eſq. was, in conſequence of his conduct as a magiſtrate, and his integrity as a merchant, at this time elected to the confidential and profitable office of chamberlain of London, of which city he was then alderman, as he had before been chief magiſtrate and repreſentative. He was the firſt ſheriff who, for a long time, ventured to ſee the ſentence of juſtice executed at Tyburn, even in caſes that ſeemed to require it moſt, without the aid of military force. On his failure, the year after his mayoralty, his friends ſettled a conſiderable annuity upon him, when, reſerving but a bare ſubſiſtence for himſelf, he annually divided the reſt amongſt his creditors, though they had ſigned his certificate, and conſequently could not have compelled him to pay an additional farthing. A conſiderable portion of his income as chamberlain he ſet apart for the ſame honourable purpoſe: he alſo ſold an annuity of 500l. which was left him by his brother, ſoon after his election to that office, for the benefit of his creditors: ſo that he, at length, diſcharged every debt that had been incurred during his commercial life; and enjoyed, as he well

deſerved,

A. D. 1765 deſerved, the univerſal regard and high reſpect which will ever wait upon ſuch diſtinguiſhed integrity.

A proclamation appeared in the London gazette, on the 23d of February, revoking all the then exiſting Mediterranean paſſes within the term of two years, at which time they were to be exchanged for new ones, except paſſes granted to ſhips gone or going to the Eaſt Indies, or other remote places, where they cannot be timely furniſhed with them; which paſſes were to continue in force for two years after the ſaid term. This was done, according to the proclamation, to prevent a miſunderſtanding between us and the governments on the coaſt of Barbary; ſeveral paſſes having, during the war, or by undue means, fallen into the hands of foreigners, who being engaged in hoſtilities with thoſe ſtates, employed them to preſerve their property from capture.

On the firſt of June, in this year, the Engliſh colours were hoiſted on the caſtle of Caſtletown, in the Iſle of Man, the ſovereignty of that iſland being now annexed to the crown of Great Britain; and a few days after, his Majeſty was proclaimed throughout that iſland.

By his Majeſty's proclamation relative to the purchaſe of this ſovereignty, for which 70,000l. was paid to the Duke and Dutcheſs of Athol, all perſons, except thoſe employed by the late proprietors in collecting the revenues, were continued in their reſpective places and employments, and ordered to take the oaths to his Majeſty within one calendar month after the publication; and all juriſdictions, authorities, and forms of law, acts of ſtate, &c. from the 21ſt of this month, were to be executed and iſſued in his Majeſty's name.

The inhabitants were allowed ſix months to diſpoſe of their ſtock in hand; and, after that time, were to become ſubject to the ſame taxes, cuſtoms, and duties as the people of England, and to be under the ſame regulations and reſtrictions; for which purpoſe, an exciſe-office and cuſtom-houſe were immediately eſtabliſhed.

By an abſtract of the clear revenue of this iſland, from 1754 to 1763, the medium income appears to have been 7,293l. per annum; of which, the land revenue for the laſt year was 1,409l. 17s. 6d.—and the annual income of the lands in the hands of the lord of the iſle, was about 107l.

Thus this iſland, which had ſo long been an aſylum for ſmugglers and outlaws, and a kind of open magazine for contraband goods, was brought within the pale of regular government, and enabled to pour in a juſt contribution to the general treaſury of the Britiſh empire.

It may not be thought improper to add to this article, an abſtract of the act of Parliament for annexing the iſland and lordſhip of Man to the crown, upon the ſurrender of the Duke and Ducheſs of Athol.

" After ſtating the ſeveral grants, by which the Duke of Athol and his predeceſſors the Earls of Derby held the ſaid iſland, and the agreement made by the preſent Duke and Ducheſs with the lords of his Majeſty's treaſury, it is enacted, that the ſaid iſland, caſtle and lordſhip of Man, and all the iſlands and lordſhips, royalties and regalities, franchiſes, liberties and ſea ports to the ſame belonging, and all other the hereditaments and premiſes granted by the ſeveral letters patent to the family of Derby, &c. ſhall be unalienably veſted in his Majeſty and his ſucceſſors, excepting and reſerving to the Duke of Athol and his heirs, the patronage of the biſhopric of the iſland of Man, or of the biſhoprics of Sodor and Man, the temporalities of the ſame when vacant, and all other patronages and eccleſiaſtical benefices within the iſlands: alſo reſerving the landed property, with all rights in or over the ſoil, as lords of the manor, with all courts baron, rents, ſervices, and other incidents to ſuch courts belonging; waſtes,

ons,

1765 commons, and other lands; inland waters, fiſhing, mills, mines and minerals; and alſo reſerving the honorary ſervice of rendering to his Majeſty's heirs and ſucceſſors, Kings and Queens of England, two falcons on the days of their reſpective coronations."

In the month of July a board of longitude was held at the Admiralty, when the marine table for finding the longitude at ſea, by the lunar method, invented by a Mr. Witchel, was taken into conſideration and approved, and a thouſand pounds ordered to be advanced, to enable the inventor to carry it into execution; and that gentleman, Mr. Iſrael Lyons, junior, Mr. William Wales, of Greenwich, and Mr. Mapſon, were appointed computors of a nautical ephemeris, for the uſe of navigation and aſtronomy; and Mr. Richard Dunithorne to correct the ſame for the preſs.

About this time, the French, with their uſual ſpirit of encroachment, made an attempt to fiſh on that part of the coaſt of Newfoundland from whence they were excluded by treaty; but the active vigilance, and ſpirited conduct of Governor Palliſer, who took ſeveral of the boats, &c. prevented any continuance of a practice, ſo contrary to national honour and good faith.

In the courſe of the month of Auguſt, eight ſhips, which had been long and anxiouſly expected from New Spain, and another from Buenos Ayres, arrived at Cadiz. The cargoes of theſe ſhips were eſtimated at eleven millions of dollars, of which the regiſtered gold and ſilver amounted to near nine millions.

His moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, from a conſideration that it was impoſſible for Engliſh ſhips to ſail to and from the Engliſh iſlands, as well as for French ſhips to ſail to and from the French iſlands, in the Weſt Indies, without often coming within a league of the ſhores belonging to the other, and even ſometimes touching at their ports; by a letter to the Governor of Martinico, ſuſpends the orders which he had formerly given, to ſeize and confiſcate ſhips and cargoes in theſe circumſtances, with a view, as his ordinance ſets forth, to prevent the illicit trade heretofore carried on between his ſubjects and the Engliſh; obſerving, at the ſame time, that ſuch a reſtriction on the part of the court of London, as that now aboliſhed by him, would be equally prejudicial to the French.

On the 31ſt of October, between the hours of ſeven and eight in the evening, his Royal Highneſs the Duke of Cumberland died ſuddenly at his houſe in Upper Groſvenor-ſtreet.

The death of ſuch a great and illuſtrious character, is an event which muſt at all times be lamented; but, at the preſent moment, when his Royal Highneſs had returned to the actual ſervice of his country, by aſſiſting her in her exigencies with his counſels, the loſs was proportionally greater, and as ſuch it was conſidered and regretted by the nation. Nor can we pay a more honourable tribute to his memory, than by adopting the eulogium which the Houſe of Lords, in deep lamentation of his loſs, beſtowed upon him: "the many eminent public "and private virtues, the extent of capacity, and the magnanimity of mind; the affection "for his Majeſty's perſon, and the eminent ſervices performed for this country, which diſ"tinguiſhed this great and excellent Prince, have made an impreſſion never to be eraſed from "the minds of a grateful people."

The French King's Council of State iſſued an arret, dated the 29th of November, concerning the liquidation of the Canada bills, which contained three articles, the tenor of which is as follows:

Article I. The tickets, &c. given hitherto, and which may be delivered hereafter, in payment of the liquidation of the Canada bills, though fixed at 4 per cent. ſhall be nevertheleſs paid

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1765 paid at the rate of four and an half in the month of January in each year, to commence in 1776, and the capital preſerved entire.

Article II. The bearers of the Canada bills ſhall be obliged to get them liquidated before the firſt of March next, and, if they delay it till after that time, the ſaid papers, though they may have been declared, ſhall not, under any pretence, be admitted to liquidation, but will remain null and of no value, without hope of re-eſtabliſhment.

Article III. His Majeſty excepts, nevertheleſs, from the diſpoſition of the preceding article, ſuch of the ſaid papers as belong to the ſubjects of Great Britain; and conſidering that the greateſt part of the ſaid papers remain yet in Canada, from whence the proprietors cannot totally withdraw them, and preſent them for liquidation before the firſt of October next, the delay above-mentioned may be extended, but in favour of the Engliſh only, till the ſaid epocha; after the expiration of which, they will likewiſe forfeit all pretenſions on their unliquidated papers. The reader is referred to the ſucceeding year, for a full account and final liquidation of the Canada bills.

The following bills received the royal aſſent in the parliamentary ſeſſions of the preſent year.

A bill for the importation of ſalted beef, pork, bacon and butter from Ireland for a limited time.

A bill for allowing further time for the importation of goods, &c. from the ceded iſlands, upon the payment of goods to which they would have been liable had theſe iſlands remained in his Majeſty's poſſeſſion.

A bill for permitting the free importation of cattle from Ireland.

A bill for providing a public reward for perſons who ſhall diſcover the longitude.

A bill for laying a ſtamp duty in the Britiſh colonies in America.

A bill to encourage the cultivation and growth of madder in Great Britain.

A bill to veſt the Iſle of Man in the crown.

A bill to improve the harbour of Ramſgate and the haven of Sandwich.

A bill for regulating the poſtage of letters.

A bill for repealing the duties on raw ſilk, and granting other duties in lieu thereof.

A bill for obliging prize agents to account for unclaimed monies.

A bill for encouraging the herring fiſhery.

A bill for laying additional duties on the importation of ſilks, velvets, &c. and otherwiſe encouraging the ſilk manufacture of this kingdom, and preventing combinations among journeymen.

A bill for granting duties on the exportation of coals, &c.

A bill for ſupplying the export trade to Africa with coarſe callicoes, &c.

A bill for encouraging the importation of bugles.

A bill for granting annuities and a lottery out of the ſinking fund.

A bill for repealing the laws relating to the width and length of woollen cloth, in the county of York, and preſerving the credit of the maſters of the ſaid manufacture, &c.

His Majeſty, on the 24th of April, had made a moſt gracious ſpeech to acquaint his Parliament, that from the paternal affection which he bore to his children and to all his people, his late indiſpoſition, though not attended with danger, had determined him to propoſe to their conſideration, ſuch meaſures as he thought might tend to preſerve the conſtitution of Great Britain undiſturbed, and the dignity and luſtre of its crown unimpaired, if it ſhould pleaſe God to put a period to his life whilſt his ſucceſſor was of tender years. In conſequence of

1765 of which royal recommendation, a bill, in the debates on which much party violence appeared, paſſed both Houſes, and on the 15th of May received the royal aſſent, under the title of "A Bill to provide for the Adminiſtration of Government, in caſe the Crown ſhould deſcend "to any of the Children of his Majeſty, being under 18 Years of Age."

To this muſt be added the following bills:

A bill to prohibit the importation of foreign manufactured ſilk ſtockings, gloves, and mits.

A bill to prevent the inconveniences ariſing from the preſent method of iſſuing notes and bills in Scotland.

A bill to alter the duties on Gum Senegal and Gum Arabic, to confine the import to Great Britain, and to lay a duty on the exportation thereof.

A bill for regulating the woollen manufactory in Yorkſhire.

A bill for the relief of inſolvent debtors.

Between the laſt and the former act of this kind, there is an interval of no more than one year and three quarters; the ſhorteſt period between the paſſing two inſolvent acts ever known in this kingdom.

A bill to enable his Majeſty, with the conſent of the Privy Council, to prohibit the exportation of corn, during the receſs of Parliament.

A bill to allow the free importation of corn, and to diſcontinue the bounty on corn exported.

Abſtract of an act to alter certain rates of poſtage, and to amend, explain, and enlarge ſeveral proviſions in an act, made in the ninth year of the reign of Queen Anne, and in other acts relating to the revenue of the Poſt-office.

The preamble to this act ſets forth, "that the ſecurity and improvement of correſpondence throughout his Majeſty's dominions, being a matter of great concernment, and highly neceſſary for the preſervation and extenſion of trade and commerce; and likewiſe, that by the vaſt acceſſion of territory gained by the late treaty of peace, ſeveral communications having been opened, and new poſts eſtabliſhed in ſeveral parts of his Majeſty's dominions in America, for which the rates of poſtage cannot, under the preſent laws be properly aſcertained: it is, therefore, enacted, that ſo much of the act of the ninth of Queen Anne, as eſtabliſhes the rates of poſtage of letters between London and the Britiſh dominions in America, and places within the ſaid dominions, be repealed, and from and after October 10, 1765, inſtead of the rates thereby eſtabliſhed, the following take place:

"For all letters and packets paſſing from London to any port within the Britiſh dominions in America, and from any ſuch port unto London, for every ſingle letter 1s. for every double letter 2s. and for every treble letter 3s. and for every ounce 4s. and ſo in proportion for every packet of deeds, writs, or other things: and from any port in the ſaid dominions, to any other port therein, by ſea, for every ſingle letter 4d. and ſo in proportion as above.

The rates of inland poſtage in America, for any diſtance not exceeding 60 miles, are, for every ſingle letter 4d. and all others in proportion; for upwards of 60 and not exceeding 100 miles, every ſingle letter 6d. &c. &c.

From and after October 10, 1765, no veſſel is to be admitted to make entry or break bulk, till the letters on board are delivered to the Poſt-office; except in ſuch caſes where they are to be delivered to the ſuperintendant of the quarantine, to be diſpatched by him to the Poſt-office. Perſons refuſing to deliver up ſuch letters, forfeit 20l. &c. and 1d. extra is charged on all ſhip letters not brought by the packet boats.

A. D. 1765 From and after October 10, 1765, the preſent rates of poſtage by the general poſt, not exceeding one poſt ſtage in Scotland and Ireland, and not exceeding two in England, are to ceaſe, and the following rates to take place, viz. rates for poſtage, not exceeding one poſt ſtage, for every ſingle letter the ſum of 1d. for every double letter 2d. for every treble letter 3d. and for every ounce 4d. and ſo in proportion for every packet of deeds, writs, &c. above one and not exceeding two poſt ſtages, the ſum of 2d. and other letters in proportion.

From July 5, 1765, the ſame rates of poſtage are to take place between London and Hamburg, as between London and Germany, and the poſtage of letters to be ſent out of Great Britain may, if deemed neceſſary, be demanded upon their being put into the office.

The ſecreting or embezzling any letter, with any bank bill or note, &c. therein, or taking out any ſuch note or bill, by any officer of the Poſt-office, is felony. Robbing the mail, or embezzling and miſapplying the poſtage money, or deſtroying any letter or packet, or advancing the rates and not accounting for the ſame, is alſo felony, &c.

Supplies granted by Parliament for this year.	£.	s.	d.
For 16,000 ſeamen, including 4,287 marines, —	832,000	0	0
For 17,421 land forces, including 2,628 invalids, and for guards, garriſons, &c. — — — —	608,130	10	7
For his Majeſty's forces and garriſons in the Plantations, including Minorca and Gibraltar, and for proviſions for the forces in North America, &c. and the ceded iſlands, — — —	387,502	3	11½
For the difference of pay between the Britiſh and Iriſh eſtabliſhments of 5 regiments of foot ſerving at Gibraltar, &c. —	6,346	3	5
For the general and general ſtaff officers of Great Britain,	11,291	8	6
For ſubſidies to the Duke of Brunſwick, — —	10,343	16	9$\frac{7}{11}$
The out-penſioners of Chelſea hoſpital, — —	109,107	18	4
Penſions to officers widows, — — —	1,664	0	0
On account of reduced officers of the land forces and marines,	135,606	12	6
Allowances to officers and privates of two troops of horſe guards, and regiment of horſe reduced, &c. — — —	2,361	14	2
The ordnance for the land ſervice, — —	174,673	15	10
For ſervices performed by the office of ordnance for land ſervice, and not provided for in 1764, — — —	55,519	10	7
For the navy, including half pay to ſea and marine officers,	407,734	11	3
Out-penſioners of Greenwich hoſpital, — —	5,000	0	0
Towards buildings and repairs of the navy, —	200,000	0	0
For extraordinary expences of the land forces and other ſervices, between December 24, 1763, and December 25, 1764, not provided for,	404,496	7	6
Victualling and navy bills, &c. — —	1,500,000	0	0
Exchequer bills, — — — —	800,000	0	0
Towards compleating the paſſage over and through London bridge,	7,000	0	0
For the militia for one year, — — —	80,000	0	0
To replace to the ſinking fund, the ſum paid out of the ſame to make good a deficiency on the rates and duties upon offices, perſons, horſes, &c.	48,176	1	11½
Carried over,	5,786,954	15	4$\frac{7}{11}$

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Brought over,	£.5,786,954	15	$4\frac{7}{11}$
Ditto, to make good the deficiency on the additional duties on wines imported, &c. — — — —	49,742	1	$2\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto, for paying annuities granted in reſpect of certain navy, victualling and tranſport bills, and ordnance debentures, delivered in and cancelled, — — — — —	139,342	2	4
To make good the deficiency of the grants for 1764, —	249,660	4	10
To the Landgrave of Heſſe Caſſel, — —	50,000	0	0
For the civil eſtabliſhment of Nova Scotia, — —	4,911	14	11
On account of ſundry expences for the ſervice of Nova Scotia, in the years 1750, 1751, 1752, 1762, 1763, and not provided for, —	7,000	0	0
On account for the civil eſtabliſhment of Georgia, &c. from June 24, 1764, to June 24, 1765, — — —	3,966	0	0
On account for the civil eſtabliſhment of Eaſt Florida, &c. for the ſame term, — — — — —	5,200	0	0
Ditto for Weſt Florida, — —	5,200	0	0
On account, for ſurveys in North America, — —	1,601	14	—
Towards building a lazaret, — — —	5,000	0	0
To redeem one quarter of the capital ſtock of certain annuities granted in reſpect of navy, victualling, and tranſport bills, and ordnance debentures, delivered in and cancelled purſuant to an act of the third year of his preſent Majeſty, — — — —	870,888	5	$5\frac{1}{2}$
Towards diſcharging unſatiſfied claims, &c. for expences incurred during the late war in Germany, — —	248,259	11	4
On account, out of the monies remaining to be applied, of the exceedings of the ſeveral ſums provided by Parliament for ſundry ſervices, and of monies that have been paid into the hands of the paymaſter general by contractors and others, to March 23, 1765, towards diſcharging ſuch unſatiſfied claims, &c. — — —	251,740	0	$7\frac{3}{4}$
Bounties to certain chaplains who have ſerved on board his Majeſty's ſhips of war, — — — —	1,231	17	6
To the Foundling Hoſpital, — — —	38,000	0	0
For maintaining and ſupporting the Britiſh forts and ſettlements on the coaſt of Africa, — — — —	13,000	0	0
For building a blockhouſe at or near Cape Appolonia on the coaſt of Africa,	7,000	0	0
For three independent companies of foot for his Majeſty's ſervice on the coaſt of Africa, &c. — — —	6,491	16	$4\frac{1}{8}$
For the civil eſtabliſhment of that part of the coaſt of Africa, ſituate between the port of Sallee, in South Barbary, and Cape Rouge	5,500	10	0
To make good the like ſum, which had been iſſued by his Majeſty in purſuance of the addreſſes of this Houſe, — —	2,400	0	0
To the government of the iſland of Barbadoes, for the aſſiſtance given by them to his Majeſty's forces under General Monckton, in the expedition againſt Martinico, — — —	10,000	0	0
Sum total of the ſupplies granted in this ſeſſion, —	7,763,090	13	$0\frac{23}{88}$

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Ways and means for raiſing the ſupplies, &c.	£.	s.	d.
Malt duty,	750,000	0	0
Land tax,	2,037,854	19	11
Navy and victualling bills	1,500,000	0	0
Surpluſſes of the ſinking fund,	135,000	5	0¼
From ditto,	2,100,000	0	0
Surplus of the grant to the militia, for 1764,	80,000	0	0
By Exchequer bills,	800,000	0	0
From monies granted towards protecting the colonies,	60,000	0	0
Monies to be paid by a convention with the French King,	308,000	0	0
Duties on Gum Senegal, &c.	12,000	0	0
To this is to be added the ſum provided as well as granted out of the monies remaining to be applied of the exceedings of the ſeveral ſums provided by Parliament for ſundry ſervices, and of monies that have been paid into the hands of the Paymaſter General by contractors and others, to March 23, 1765, as mentioned in the foregoing account of ſupplies	251,740	2	7¾
Total ways and means,	8,034,808	7	6
Supply granted,	7,763,090	13	0
Exceſs of this year,	271,717	14	6¾

As no debts were created by the foregoing revenue votes, the only ſtate of the national debt we could inſert under this year, would be the ſame as that of the laſt, we have therefore thought proper to omit it.

The following is a detail of the extraordinary duties which were impoſed to aid the general ſcheme of ſupply for this year.

February 7.—Fifty-five reſolutions of the committee of ways and means were agreed to by the Houſe of Commons, for impoſing much the ſame ſtamp duties upon the Britiſh colonies and plantations in America, as are payable in England; to be paid into the receipt of his Majeſty's Exchequer, and there reſerved, to be diſpoſed of by Parliament towards further defraying the neceſſary expences of protecting the ſaid colonies.

February 16.—For the better ſupply of our export trade to Africa, with ſuch coarſe printed callicoes and other goods, being the product or manufacture of the Eaſt Indies, or other places beyond the Cape of Good Hope, as are prohibited to be worn in Great Britain, the Eaſt India Company were permitted to import the ſame from any part of Europe not within the Britiſh dominions, under proper limitations: and upon failure of the company's keeping the ſaid export trade ſupplied with a ſufficient quantity of ſuch goods, other perſons were permitted to import the ſame from any ſuch part of Europe, &c. Callicoes and other goods ſo imported, were made liable to pay the ſame duties as if imported by the ſaid company from the Eaſt Indies, or any other place beyond the Cape of Good Hope, and no other.

The bounty allowed by law, to be paid on the exportation of corn, grain, malt, meal, and flour, from Great Britain to the Iſle of Man, was diſcontinued.

A ſtamp

A. D. 1765 A ſtamp duty of 10s. was charged upon every piece of vellum or parchment, or ſheet or piece of paper, on which every licence for making and ſelling meaſures of capacity ſhould be ingroſſed, written, or printed; and a ſtamp duty of 10l. upon every licence for making and ſelling of weights.

March 11.—Certain annuities granted in the twenty-third year of his late Majeſty, and the ſecond year of his preſent Majeſty, in reſpect of certain capital ſtocks thereby eſtabliſhed, amounting together to the ſum of 20,240,000l. at the rate of 4l. per cent. for certain terms of years, and then to be reduced to 3l. per cent. per annum. which annuities were made payable half yearly on the 5th of July and 5th of January in every year, and afterwards conſolidated and made one joint ſtock, were, from and after the fifth of July next enſuing, made payable in the following manner, viz. one quarterly payment on the 10th of October next, and the annuities, from the 10th of October, to be payable half yearly, on the 5th of April and the 10th of October in every year.

March 12.—Fifteen reſolutions of the ſaid committee were agreed to by the Houſe, relating to the poſtage of letters: they were afterwards formed into a bill, and the bill paſſed into a law, of which we have already given an abſtract.

March 14.—Perſons intereſted in any bill, payable in the courſe of the navy or victualling offices, or for tranſports, which were made out on or before the 30th of June 1764, who ſhould on or before the 26th of March, inſt. carry the ſame (after having the intereſt computed thereupon to the 6th of April next) to the office of the Treaſurer of his Majeſty's navy, ſhould have, in exchange, a certificate to the Governor and Company of the Bank of England, for every ſum of one or more hundred pounds of which ſuch bill or bills, with the intereſt, ſhould conſiſt, until the ſeveral entire ſums for which certificates were to be made forth, ſhould amount together to 1,500,000l. and another certificate for the fractional part of 100l. being the remainder of ſuch bill or bills; and the perſons who ſhould be poſſeſſed of ſuch firſt-mentioned certificates, of the entire ſum of one or more hundred pounds, ſhould, upon delivery thereof to the ſaid Governor and Company, be entitled to the annuities hereafter-mentioned, viz. for two-fifth parts of the ſums therein mentioned, to an annuity after the rate of 3l. per cent. redeemable by Parliament, and transferable and payable at the Bank of England; for two other fifth parts thereof, to a proportional number of tickets of the value of 10l. in a lottery to conſiſt of 60,000 tickets, every blank to be of the value of 6l.; the blanks and prizes to be attended with the like 3 per cent annuities; and, for the remaining one-fifth part, to a like annuity, after the rate of 3l. per cent. with liberty to convert the ſame into an annuity for life, after the ſame rate, with benefit of ſurvivorſhip, in the following manner, viz. that every perſon who ſhould become poſſeſſed, in right of 100l. capital ſtock, of an annuity of 3l. in ſuch laſt-mentioned annuities, and ſhould produce, on or before the 5th of April 1765, a certificate thereof, atteſted by the caſhier of the Bank of England, to the auditor of the receipt of his Majeſty's Exchequer, ſhould, in lieu thereof, be entitled, from the ſaid 5th of April 1765, during the life of the nominee whom he ſhould appoint, to a life annuity of 3l. payable at the Exchequer, out of the ſinking fund; and the ſeveral nominees, to be appointed in reſpect of ſuch life annuities, to be divided into claſſes, the whole annuity belonging to each claſs not to be leſs than 1,500,000l. if life annuities to that amount ſhall be ſo ſubſcribed; and, upon the death of every nominee, the annuity, ſo fallen in, to be diſtributed among the ſurvivors of the ſame claſs; and the annuities of the firſt two-fifth parts, ſhould be immediately added to the joint ſtock of annuities, reduced from 4 to three per cent. and conſolidated, purſuant to

certain

A. D.
1765 certain acts of Parliament, made in the 25th and 26th years of his late Majeſty; and the annuities attending the ſaid lottery, together with ſuch of the annuities of the ſaid one fifth part as ſhould not be exchanged for annuities on lives, with the benefit of ſurvivorſhip, in manner above-mentioned, ſhould alſo be added to ſuch joint ſtock, from the 5th of April 1765; and all the ſaid annuities, transferable and payable at the Bank, ſhould commence from the ſaid 5th of April 1765, and be payable half yearly, on the 10th of October and 5th of April in every year, out of the ſinking fund; but, in caſe the ſeveral entire ſums of one or more hundred pounds, with the intereſt, ſhould not then amount in the whole to 1,500,000l. all perſons poſſeſſed of ſuch certificate for the fractional parts of 100l. or of navy, victualling, or tranſport bills, which ſhould be made out on or before the 30th of June 1764, and did not amount, together with the intereſt, computed to the 6th of April, to 100l. might, on or before the 5th of April, carry the ſame to the office of the Treaſurer of his Majeſty's navy, and have, in exchange, a certificate to the Governor and Company of the Bank of England, for the ſums contained in ſuch certificates, and for the amount of the principal and intereſt of which ſuch bills ſhould conſiſt; and, upon delivery thereof, and payment of ſo much money to the ſaid Governor and Company as ſhould, with the ſum ſo certified, amount to 100l. be entitled to the annuities and advantages before-mentioned: and if any ſuch certificates for fractional parts ſhould not be delivered in, and ſubſcribed as aforeſaid, on or before the ſaid fifth of April next, they ſhould be paid according to the courſe of the navy, in ſuch order as the bills in part of which they were granted were payable; and ſuch of them as were granted in part of bills bearing intereſt, ſhould, from the ſaid 5th of April next, carry the like intereſt to which ſuch bills were entitled.

An additional duty was granted to his Majeſty, of 4s. for every chaldron of coals, Newcaſtle meaſure, which ſhould be ſhipped for exportation to any part beyond the ſeas, except to Ireland, the Iſle of Man, or the Britiſh dominions in America; and at the ſame rate for any greater or leſſer quantity.

There was granted to his Majeſty, upon all wrought ſilks, Bengals, and ſtuffs, mixed with ſilk or herba, of the manufacture of Perſia or Eaſt India, and upon all callicoes, printed, dyed, painted or ſtained there, which ſhould be exported from this kingdom, except to Africa or the Britiſh dominions in America, a ſubſidy of poundage, after the rate of 12d. for every 20s. of the value of ſuch goods, according to the groſs price at which the ſame were ſold at the public ſales thereof: and upon exportation from this kingdom of any ſort of white callicoes or muſlins, except to Africa or the Britiſh dominions in America, there was to be retained, beſides the one half of the rate or duty of the old ſubſidy, which then remained and was not drawn back for the ſame, the further ſum of 2l. for every 100l. of the real value of ſuch goods, according to the groſs price at which they were ſold at the Eaſt India Company's ſales; but that ſuch callicoes, which ſhould firſt have been printed, ſtained, painted, or dyed, in Great Britain, ſhould not be ſubject to the ſaid duty of 2l. to be retained as aforeſaid.

A ſtamp duty of 2d. for every ſkin or piece of vellum or parchment, or ſheet or piece of paper, on which ſhould be engroſſed, written, or printed, any policy of aſſurance, which ſhould be made within the weekly bills of mortality, over and above all other duties. Likewiſe a duty of 2s. 6d. for every ſkin or piece of vellum or parchment, or ſheet or piece of paper, on which ſhould be engroſſed, written, or printed, any policy of aſſurance which ſhould be made in Great Britain, over and above all other duties. The ſaid duties were to be carried to, and made part of, the ſinking fund, towards making good the payment of the ſaid annuities.

A. D.
1765 The ſtamp duty of 6d. impoſed in the 12th of Queen Anne, and the additional duty of 1s. impoſed in the 30th of King George II. upon vellum, parchment, or paper, containing any indenture, leaſe, bond, or other deed, was declared to extend to every ſkin or piece of vellum or parchment, or ſheet or piece of paper, on which ſhould be engroſſed, written, or printed in Great Britain, any policy of aſſurance or charter party.

March 25.—Authority was given to permit the importation into this kingdom from the Iſle of Man, under proper limitations, coarſe printed callicoes and other goods, of the product and manufacture of the Eaſt Indies, or other places beyond the Cape of Good Hope, which are prohibited to be uſed in Great Britain, and which were brought into the ſaid iſle before the 1ſt of March 1765, upon payment of one half of the old ſubſidy only for ſuch goods.

April 4.—In caſe the monies, for which certificates have been or ſhall be granted, in purſuance of a reſolution of the Houſe of Commons, of the 14th of March laſt, by the Treaſurer of his Majeſty's navy, to the Governor and Company of the Bank of England, for navy, victualling and tranſport bills, made out on or before the 30th of June 1764, and for ſuch fractional parts of the ſaid bills, as remained above the entire ſum of one or more hundred pounds, together with the ſums paid and payable at the Bank of England, with the certificates for ſuch fractional parts, and for ſuch of the ſaid bills, as, together with the intereſt computed thereupon, did not amount to 100l. ſhould not, on the 5th of April, inſt. make up the full ſum of 1,500,000l. the monies which ſhall be ſo wanting to complete the ſaid ſum of 1,500,000l. ſhould be raiſed by contributions, to be received at the Bank of England, in entire ſums of one or more hundred pounds, to be paid to the caſhier of the ſaid Governor and Company, on or before the 28th of April; and that the contributors be entitled for the monies ſo advanced, to ſuch annuities as are mentioned in the ſaid reſolution, to be allowed to the proprietors of certificates, granted in exchange for ſuch navy, victualling, and tranſport bills, as ſhall have been delivered on or before the reſpective days therein limited.

April 20.—A duty of 6d. was laid upon every 100 weight of gum ſenegal, or gum arabic, imported into this kingdom, over and above all duties now payable thereon: and a duty of 30s. was laid upon every 100 weight of gum ſenegal, or gum arabic, exported out of this kingdom, over and above all duties now payable thereon.

April 25.—The monies which had been paid at the Bank, in purſuance of the reſolutions of the Houſe of Commons, of the 14th of March laſt, were ordered to be applied towards diſcharging bills payable in the courſe of the navy or victualling offices, or for tranſports, which were made out on or before the 30th of June, 1764.

April 30.—The bounties and drawbacks paid upon the exportation of refined and ground ſugars, were diſcontinued: and a bounty was allowed, after the rate of 14s. 6d. for every hundred weight, upon the exportation from this kingdom of refined ſugar in the loaf, compleat and whole, being net, viz. of one uniform whiteneſs throughout, and which has gone through the operation of 3 days at leaſt, and been properly and thoroughly dried in the ſtove, according to the preſent method of refining: alſo upon the exportation from this kingdom of refined ſugar called baſtard, and of ground and powdered refined ſugar, and of refined loaf ſugar broke in pieces, (the ſaid ſugar having been twice clayed, and properly dried in the ſtove), a bounty or drawback was allowed, after the rate of 6s. 4d. for every hundred weight.

Liberty was granted for a limited time, to carry rice from North Carolina, directly to any other part of America, ſouthward of South Carolina and Georgia, ſubject to ſuch duty as is now payable upon rice, carried from South Carolina and Georgia, to any part of America, to

1765 the ſouthward thereof: and the duties ariſing therefrom, were ordered to be paid into the receipt of his Majeſty's Exchequer, and there reſerved, to be diſpoſed of by Parliament, towar d further defraying the neceſſary expences of defending and ſecuring the Britiſh dominions in America.

Bounties were alſo granted upon the importation of deals, planks, boards and timber, into this kingdom, from the Britiſh dominions in North America, for the term of 9 years, as follows, during the firſt 3 years, for every 100, containing 6 ſcore of ſound merchantable deals, planks and boards, not leſs than 10 feet long, 10 inches broad, and 1 inch and a quarter thick, 20s. and ſo in proportion for any greater length; and for any greater thickneſs, not exceeding 4 inches, and for every load, containing 40 cubic feet, of ſound merchantable ſquared timber of all kinds, (the timber not to be leſs than 10 inches ſquare) 12s.; and during the next 3 years, for every 100 of ſuch deals, planks, and boards, 15s. and for every load of ſuch timber, 8s. and during the laſt 3 years, for every 100 of ſuch deals, planks and boards, 10s. and for every load of ſuch timber, 5s.

The additional inland duty of 1s. granted in the thirty-ſecond year of his late Majeſty, upon every pound weight avoirdupois of coffee ſold in Great Britain, was ordered to ceaſe and determine: and in lieu thereof, there was granted to his Majeſty, an additional inland duty of 6d. upon every pound weight avoirdupois of coffee, not being of the growth and product of the Britiſh plantations in America, which ſhould be ſold in Great Britain. This additional inland duty, was to be appropriated to the uſes, to which the ſaid duty of 1s. per pound weight was made applicable.

The allowances directed by law, to be made in reſpect of hard ſoap, which ſhould be refreſhed or made new, were diſcontinued: and, in lieu thereof, the duties upon one pound, in every 10 pounds weight of ſoap, were allowed to the makers.

All linen cloth and diaper of Ruſſia, which were not then particularly rated in any act of Parliament, or book of rates, were, upon importation into this kingdom, rated as follows:—All ſuch cloth and diaper, being in breadth more than 22½ and not exceeding 31½ inches, at 4l. and being in breadth more than 31½ and not exceeding 45 inches, at 6l. and exceeding 45 inches in breadth, at 10l. for every 120 Engliſh ells thereof reſpectively, and ſo in proportion for any greater or leſſer quantity; and the full amount of the ſeveral duties required by law to be paid, for every 20s. of the value of ſuch goods, was to be raiſed and collected according to the ſaid reſpective rates.

No drawback or bounty was to be allowed upon the exportation of any goods from this kingdom, to any of the iſlands of Faro.

May 6.—Every inſtrument, letter, entry, minute, memorandum, or other writing, whereby any officer is admitted, in any court whatſoever, to ſerve or to hold ſuch office, as is charged with any ſtamp duty within the meaning of the acts of the fifth of William and Mary, the ninth of William III. and the twelfth of Queen Anne, whereby the ſeveral duties of 40s. are impoſed upon every piece of vellum, parchment, or paper, on which any admittance of ſuch officer is ingroſſed or written, ſhould be deemed and taken to be an admittance of ſuch officer.

The exiſting ſtamp duty upon the admiſſion into any corporation or company, was repealed: and, in lieu thereof, a ſtamp duty of 2s. was to be charged upon the entry, minute, or memorandum, made of ſuch admittance, in their court book, roll, or record.

The then allowance for prompt payment at the ſtamp office, was repealed: and, inſtead thereof, an allowance be made at the rate of 4l. per cent. per ann.

A. D. 1765 An additional ſtamp duty of 20s. was charged upon every policy of aſſurance, in which the properties of more than one perſon, in any ſhip, cargo, or both, or more than a particular number of perſons in partnerſhip, or more than one body politic, to a greater amount in the whole than 100l. ſhould be aſſured.

The 2s. ſtamp duty, to be impoſed by the third reſolution of May 3, was applied to the uſes, to which the ſtamp duty repealed by that reſolution was applicable.

The additional ſtamp duty of 20s. impoſed by the ſixth reſolution of May 6, ſhould be applied to the like uſes, to which the duties upon policies of aſſurance were then applicable.

The ſame bounties were allowed upon all linens to be made in the Iſle of Man, and imported into Great Britain, which ſhould be exported from thence, as are now allowed on the exportation of Britiſh or Iriſh linens, and under the ſame reſtrictions and limitations.

The inhabitants of the Iſle of Man were now allowed to import, into any lawful port of Great Britain or Ireland, the beſtials, or any other goods, wares, and merchandizes of the growth, produce, and manufacture of the ſaid Iſle, except woollen manufactures, beer and ale, without paying any cuſtom, ſubſidies, or duties, except ſuch exciſe or other duty, as is or ſhould be due and payable for the like goods, wares, or merchandize, of the growth, produce, and manufactures of Great Britain, liable to certain limitations and reſtrictions.

May 9.—Towards making good and ſecuring the payment of the ſums of money, directed by an act of the thirty-ſecond of George II. to be applied in augmentation of the ſalaries of the judges and juſtices in England and Wales, there was granted an additional ſtamp duty of 4l. upon every piece of vellum or parchment, or ſheet or piece of paper, upon which any admiſſion into any of the four inns of court ſhould be engroſſed or written; and an additional ſtamp duty of 6l. upon every ſuch piece on which ſhould be engroſſed or written, any regiſter, entry, teſtimonial, or certificate, of the degree of Utter Barriſter, taken in any of the four inns of court.

It may not be improper to obſerve, that the two ſums, amounting to 500,000l. provided for diſcharging unſatisfied claims and demands incurred during the late war in Germany, and which are particularly ſtated in the ſupplies for this year, were granted in a manner, very ſeldom if ever practiſed before the preceding ſeſſion. The old and moſt regular way of providing for this ſum, would have been to have granted in the committee of ſupply, upon account, a ſum not exceeding 500,000l. towards diſcharging ſuch unſatisfied claims, demands, &c.; and then the committee of ways and means to have reſolved, that towards making good the ſupply granted to his Majeſty, there be iſſued and applied the ſum of 251,740l. 2s. 7¾d. out of the exceedings of the ſeveral ſums provided by Parliament for ſundry ſervices, and of the monies that have been paid into the hands of the Paymaſter-general by contractors and others, to March 23, 1765. The whole, it is plain, of the 500,000l. was to be paid on account of the war in Germany.

A. D.
1765

IMPORTS and EXPORTS, from CHRISTMAS 1764, to CHRISTMAS 1765.

Countries.	*Imports.*			*Exports.*		
Africa,	£. 51,692	2	11	£. 469,034	14	4
Canaries,	8,591	4	11	42,365	15	8
Denmark and Norway,	85,901	3	9	132,588	16	10
East Country,	128,901	18	2	239,717	5	5
East India,	1,455,589	1	2	914,278	14	1
Flanders,	146,412	4	9	456,817	19	1
France,	186,333	8	10	153,076	11	0
Germany,	602,624	12	7	1,869,465	18	8
Greenland,	10,639	11	0	15	5	7
Holland,	420,273	4	3	2,026,772	16	11
Ireland,	1,070,533	11	11	1,767,020	1	6
Italy,	785,030	7	6	824,803	5	8
Madeiras	3,974	12	1	40,797	3	3
Portugal,	354,307	5	1	679,037	16	1
Ruſſia,	967,339	11	7	76,170	18	9
Spain,	594,893	9	3	1,237,551	3	11
Streights,	28,057	7	8	80,306	16	0
Sweden,	234,452	0	1	49,003	17	8
Turkey,	122,652	2	11	91,735	1	3
Venice,	47,912	11	10	22,481	1	4
Alderney,	157	0	5	1,333	16	5
Guernſey,	17,595	3	5	29,024	10	2
Jerſey,	16,793	4	7	12,109	6	10
Antigua,	159,152	12	5	149,751	1	8
Anguilla,	3,536	11	0			
Barbadoes,	326,688	6	8	191,202	19	0
Bermudas,	9,973	4	8	17,715	15	3
Canada,	39,034	4	2	213,509	14	9
Carolina,	385,918	12	0	334,709	12	8
Dominica,	73,497	10	10	8,656	3	3
Florida,	684	8	4	19,888	9	8
Georgia,	34,183	15	8	29,165	16	9
Granades,	199,909	0	11	77,673	9	1
Guadaloupe,	66,560	15	7			
Havannah,	6,451	0	0			
Hudſon's Bay,	10,654	10	1	4,394	5	5
Jamaica,	1,023,091	13	9	415,624	0	4
Martinico,	24	16	1			
Montſerrat,	66,694	12	11	15,938	15	4
Nevis,	54,528	17	6	11,905	19	5
New England,	145,819	0	1	451,299	14	7
Newfoundland,	43,928	4	11	70,498	7	9
New Providence,	4,871	3	5	4,227	18	3
New York,	54,959	18	2	382,349	11	1
Nova Scotia,	164	2	1	48,211	19	8
Pennſylvania,	25,148	10	10	363,368	17	5
St. Croix,	7,089	10	4	4,800	18	11
St. John's Iſland,				862	11	9
St. Chriſtopher's,	245,095	3	7	111,357	9	11
St. Lucia,	447	3	6			
St. Vincent,	4,459	14	5	1,443	18	9
Tobago,				546	19	11
Tortola,	38,972	13	10	21,171	17	9
Virginia and Maryland,	505,671	9	9	383,224	13	0
Weſt Indies in general,				1,383	15	3
Spaniſh Weſt Indies,	11,874	5	8	113	8	8
Totals,	10,889,742	13	10	14,550,507	1	8
Exports exceed the Imports,				3,660,764	7	10

A general

1765 A general bill of chriſtenings and burials in London, from December 11, 1764, to December 10, 1765.

Chriſtened, males	8,422	Buried, males	11,489
——— females	7,949	——— females	11,741
	16,371		23,230

Bills of births, burials, &c. in different parts of Great Britain and Europe, for the year 1765.

Amſterdam,—baptized, 4776; married in the reformed churches, 1692; at the town-hall, 750; by banns, 1,073: died, 7,725.

Brandenburgh and Pruſſian Pomerania,—born 14,383; married, 3,641; died, 9,108.

Copenhagen,—born, 2,541; married, 1,033; died, 1,001.

Denmark,—born, 25,923; died, 24,678.

Holſtein and Sleſwick,—born. 12,797; died, 11,533.

Koningſberg,—born. 2,149; married, 683; died, 1,575.

Leipſick,—born, 1,437; married, 324; died, 1,048.

Liverpool,—chriſtened, 956; married, 478; buried, 1,151.

Munich, capital of Bavaria,—born, 816; died, 1,063.

Newcaſtle upon Tyne and Gateſhead,—chriſtened, 728; buried, 763.—The burials at the Ballaſt Hills not included, which are eſtimated at 300.

Norway,—born, 22,536; died, 20,241.

Paris,—born, 19,439; foundlings, 5,495; marriages, 4,782; deaths, 18,034.

Peterſburgh,—born, 5,049; died, 4,198.

Rotterdam,—married, 573; died, 1,710.

1766 It was, at the time, and ſtill is the opinion of many reflecting, well-informed, and impartial perſons, that the political candour of the miniſtry, (a very rare virtue among ſtateſmen) was the innocent cauſe of the violent oppoſition given to the ſtamp act, in England as well as America; and we are rather diſpoſed to lean towards ſuch an opinion. Had the ſtamp duty been laid on the colonies at once, and without any previous mention of it to them, they would, perhaps, have ſubmitted, if not without ſome diſcontent, at leaſt without that unreſerved violence of oppoſition which has proved the ſource of ſo much calamity. The principal people among them would not then have had an opportunity of making the lower ſort foreſee, in that act of the Britiſh legiſlature, when merely held out to them, much greater evils than they were liable to feel when actually ſubjected to it; much leſs would they have had time to animate each other againſt it to ſuch a degree, that all intelligence concerning it which reached any one part of the extenſive dominions of Britiſh America, almoſt inſtantaneouſly flew over the reſt, exciting every where diſcontents in all ranks, and ſuch commotions in moſt of them, particularly among the populace, as to produce all that hoſtility of diſpoſition to the mother country which we have deſcribed under the preceding year.

While, however, Great Britain and America were ſuſpended in anxious expectation in what manner theſe differences between both would terminate, the miniſtry ſo obnoxious to the latter had been diſmiſſed, and another ſubſtituted in its room, whoſe ſyſtem of politics was more favourable to their wiſhes. They were brought into the public ſervice by the advice, and under the arrangement of the Duke of Cumberland, who could not be ſuſpected of any party pre-

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1766 prepoſſeſſions, and who was known to poſſeſs thoſe talents which qualified him to ſtand forth the effectual friend of his country at ſuch a critical juncture.

The nation was, at this period, involved in circumſtances of no common diſtreſs; our manufacturers wanted employment, commerce was in a kind of ſtagnant ſtate, proviſions were extravagantly dear, and a numerous populace had not ſufficient employment to obtain the means of comfortable ſubſiſtence. Such was the gloomy proſpect that opened upon us at the commencent of this year: nor did the more extended proſpects acroſs the Atlantic ocean afford any other objects but ſcenes of anarchy and confuſion, in which licentiouſneſs was carried to ſuch a height, as almoſt to aſſume another name.

But ſupported as the coloniſts were by an enthuſiaſtic ſpirit of reſentment, they very ſenſibly felt the inconveniences which muſt ever ariſe to a commercial people from an interruption of their trade. Their warehouſes, however, were full of Britiſh goods, for which they had not paid; and the many reſources of ſo vaſt an extent of country, abounding in the moſt eſſential articles of life, prevented them from feeling the preſſure of immediate diſtreſs.

The enormous ſums which were owing to our merchants in the colonies, added greatly to the public difficulties, by the effect that circumſtance naturally had on the trading and manufacturing part of the community. Theſe debts, amounting to ſeveral millions, the Americans pleaded their inability to pay; and their very creditors were ready to admit the plea, as founded in truth.

As the nation was never, perhaps, in a more critical ſituation, no adminiſtration had greater difficulties to encounter than that which had been lately called to the management of public affairs. They were under the immediate neceſſity of either enforcing the ſtamp act by fire and ſword, or of moving its immediate repeal in Parliament. In the former caſe, though there was no doubt entertained of the power of Great Britain to cruſh the colonies, yet ſuch a deciſion would have been conſidered as employing one arm to cut off the other.

On the other hand, if the act ſhould be repealed, they might be accuſed, with ſome appearance of juſtice, of ſacrificing the dignity of the crown, with the intereſts of the nation, to their own want of reſolution, or a blind oppoſition to the meaſures of their predeceſſors in office.

The loſs of their illuſtrious patron, the Duke of Cumberland, was alſo a diminution of their ſtrength and ſecurity, which owed ſo much to his good ſenſe and patriotiſm, as well as the confidence which the public had ſo naturally placed in him.

Such was the ſituation of affairs when the Parliament met at the latter end of the year 1765. Notice was taken from the throne of the importance of thoſe matters which had occurred in North America, and which were offered as the cauſe for aſſembling the two houſes ſooner than was originally intended, that they might have an opportunity to iſſue the neceſſary writs on the many vacancies which had happened ſince the laſt ſeſſion, and proceed, immediately after the receſs, to the conſideration of the very important matters which would then ſolicit their attention.

There never was any ſubject debated in the Parliament of Great Britain, in which the public appeared to be more deeply intereſted than the preſent; while the reſt of Europe, particularly the commercial part of it, were by no means inattentive to the event.

When the Parliament met again, in the month of January, in this year, a ſecond ſpeech from the throne recommended the American affairs as the principal object of its deliberations.

Petitions

A. D. 1766 Petitions were alſo received, at this time, from the merchants of London, Briſtol, Lancaſter, Liverpool, Hull, Glaſgow, &c. &c. and indeed from moſt of the trading and manufacturing towns in the kingdom. In theſe petitions they ſet forth the great decay of their trade, owing to the new laws and regulations made for America; the vaſt quantity of our manufactures (beſides thoſe articles imported from abroad, which were purchaſed either with our own manufactures, or with the produce of our colonies) which the American trade formerly took off our hands; by all which, many thouſands of manufacturers, ſeamen, and labourers, had been employed, to the very great and increaſing benefit of the nation.—That, in return for theſe exports, the petitioners had received from the colonies, rice, indigo, tobacco, naval ſtores, oil, whale-fins, and latterly pot-aſh, with other ſtaple commodities; beſides a large balance in remittances by bills of exchange and bullion, obtained by the coloniſts for articles of their produce not required for the Britiſh market, and therefore exported to other places.

That, from the nature of this trade, conſiſting of Britiſh manufactures exported, and of the import of raw materials from America, many of them uſed in our manufactures, and all of them tending to leſſen our dependence on neighbouring ſtates, it muſt be deemed of the firſt importance in the commercial ſyſtem of this nation. That this commerce, ſo beneficial to the ſtate, and ſo neceſſary for the ſupport of multitudes, then lay under ſuch difficulties and diſcouragements, that nothing leſs than its utter ruin was apprehended, without the immediate interpoſition of Parliament.

That the colonies were then indebted to the merchants of Great Britain to the amount of ſeveral millions ſterling; and that when preſſed for payment, they appealed to paſt experience in proof of their willingneſs, but declare it is not in their power to make good their engagements; alleging, that the taxes and reſtrictions laid upon them, and the extenſion of the juriſdiction of the admiralty courts, eſtabliſhed by ſome late acts of Parliament, &c. which have ſo far interrupted the uſual and former moſt fruitful branches of their commerce, reſtrained the ſale of their produce, thrown the ſtate of the ſeveral provinces into confuſion, and brought on ſo many actual bankruptcies, that the former opportunities and means of remittances and payments were taken from them.

In ſhort, ſuch a number of petitions from every commercial and trading part of the kingdom, containing ſo many intereſting facts, ſtated and atteſted by ſuch numbers of people, whoſe lives had been entirely devoted to trade, and who muſt be naturally ſuppoſed competent judges of a ſubject to which they had ſo cloſely attended, (beſides as it ſhewed the general ſenſe of the nation) could not fail of conſiderably influencing, and having a great weight with Parliament.

There were alſo petitions preſented by the agents of the iſland of Jamaica, and the colonies of Virginia and Georgia; but inſtead of leſſening the ſpirit of debate, theſe petitions encreaſed the ſubjects of it. At length, however, after a moſt unwearied attention to this important buſineſs, the Houſe of Commons reſolved, without a diviſion, that Great Britain poſſeſſed a legiſlative power over her colonies in all caſes whatſoever. This reſolution was followed by a bill for the repeal of the ſtamp act; which, after a length of parliamentary debate that had been ſeldom or never before known, was carried, on a diviſion, by a majority of 275 to 167; and, with another bill, declaring the ſupreme, ſovereign authority of Great Britain over her colonies, on the eighth day of March received the royal aſſent.

A. D. 1766 Of theſe important acts of Parliament we ſhall give the following abſtracts:

Abſtract of an Act for the better ſecuring the Dependence of his Majeſty's Dominions in America on the Crown of Great Britain.

The preamble ſets forth, "That ſeveral of the houſes of repreſentatives in his Majeſty's colonies in America, had of late, againſt the law, claimed to themſelves, or to the general aſſemblies of the ſame, the ſole and excluſive right of impoſing duties and taxes on his Majeſty's ſubjects in the ſaid colonies, and have paſſed certain votes, reſolutions, and orders, derogatory to the authority of Parliament, and inconſiſtent with the dependency of the ſaid colonies upon the crown of Great Britain: it is therefore declared, that the ſaid colonies have been, are, and of right ought to be, ſubordinate unto, and dependent on, the imperial crown and Parliament of Great Britain; and that the King and Parliament of Great Britain had, hath, and of right ought to have, full power and authority to make laws and ſtatutes of ſufficient force to bind the colonies, and his Majeſty's ſubjects in them, in all caſes whatſoever.

"And it is further declared, that all reſolutions, votes, orders, and proceedings in any of the ſaid colonies, whereby the power and authority of the King, Lords, and Commons of Great Britain in Parliament aſſembled, is denied or drawn into queſtion, are, and are hereby declared to be utterly null and void, to all intents and purpoſes whatſoever."

Abſtract of an Act for repealing the Stamp Act.

This act ſets forth, "That as the continuance of the former act would be attended with many inconveniencies, and may be productive of conſequences greatly detrimental to the commercial intereſts of theſe kingdoms, it is therefore, from and after the firſt of May, 1766, with the ſeveral matters and things contained in it, hereby repealed and made void, to all intents and purpoſes whatſoever."

On the 6th of June a bill was alſo brought into Parliament, to indemnify thoſe who had incurred penalties on account of the ſtamp act, &c. and a requiſition was made by government to the North American provinces to indemnify ſuch perſons as had ſuffered in their property by the late riots, by making them a proper compenſation for the loſſes they had ſuſtained; which, after ſome time, was accordingly done. At the ſame time, a bill was paſſed for opening free ports, under certain reſtrictions, in different parts of the Weſt Indies.

This adminiſtration, who, by their conduct, were endeavouring to ſecure popularity, could not take a more ready method to obtain poſſeſſion of that object than by the repeal of the cyder act, which took place during this ſeſſion. Few laws had ever been paſſed in this country which had proved ſo obnoxious to the people in general, but eſpecially to thoſe of the cyder counties, than that act had been: the repeal of it was accompanied with proportionate marks of public approbation.

But government was not wholly employed in domeſtic concerns; foreign tranſactions poſſeſſed a proper ſhare of their attention: and it was in this year that a final ſettlement of the long conteſted buſineſs of the Canada bills took place. As this tranſaction occupied a tedious length of negociation, and may claim a place among the commercial events of this period, we ſhall relate the particular circumſtances of it.

When Canada was in poſſeſſion of the French, it was an annual loſs to the government, although its trade was very profitable to individuals, and to the kingdom in general.

The method the French government took to pay the ſubjects of Canada the balance due to them, was by giving them either bills of exchange on the royal treaſury, or what they call ordonnances, of which the following was the form:

20 ſols——COLONIES, 1757.

Dépenſes générales.

No. 44,195.

Il ſera tenu compte par le Roi, au mois d'Octobre prochain, de la ſomme de vingt ſols, valeur en la ſoûmiſſion du treſorier, reſtée au bureau du contrôle.

A Quebec, le premier Juin, 1757.

BIGOT.

Theſe bills were given from a thouſand livres to ſeven-pence halfpenny, and were preferred by the inhabitants to current coin. In the month of October of every year, every one was at liberty to bring theſe ordonnances to the intendant's office, and had a right to demand bills of exchange on Old France in payment. This right gave the paper currency a preference even over ready caſh, as the government would not take caſh for bills of exchange.

Although the inhabitants might have brought all their ordonnances to the year 1759 for payment, yet being as current, and more uſeful than caſh, conſiderable quantities always remained in the country; and, as a proof, there were ſtill extant ſome of theſe ordonnances of the year 1729.

In the year 1759, the intendant, and others concerned in the government of Canada, iſſued out very conſiderable quantities of bills of exchange, which they pretended were for the uſe of the government; but as the French court charged them with mal-adminiſtration, this point continued in diſpute till they were ſentenced to make reſtitution. On being informed of this ſentence, the Engliſh merchants, who were, as we have mentioned under a former year, deeply concerned in Canada paper, applied to government, for the purpoſe of obtaining their ſhare in the appointed reſtitution; and after a length of negociation which the buſineſs did not ſeem to require, the following convention for the liquidation of the Canada paper money belonging to the ſubjects of the King of Great Britain and his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, was executed on the 29th of March, in this year.

"Article I. His Excellency General Conway, inveſted with full powers and authoriſations, accepts for the Britiſh proprietors and holders of Canada paper, and in their names, the reduction of the ſaid paper, on the footing of 50 per cent. for the bills of exchange, and ſuch part of the certificates as are entitled to the ſaid payments; and of 75 per cent. for the ordonnances, cards, and the remaining part of the certificates; and to receive for the 50 and 25 per cent. of the reduced principal, reconnoiſſances, or rent contracts, which ſhall bear an annual intereſt from the 1ſt of January, 1765, of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to be ſubjected to the dixième from the ſaid 1ſt of January, 1765, in as many reconnoiſſances as it ſhall ſuit the holders to divide their liquidated principals into, provided that each reconnoiſſance ſhall not be for more than 1000 livres Tournois: which reconnoiſſances ſhall ſhare the ſame fate for their reimburſement as the other debts of the ſtate, and ſhall not be ſubjected to any reduction whatſoever. The whole conformably to the arrets of the council iſſued in France the 29th June, 2d July, 1764, 29th and 31ſt December, 1765.

"II. In order to aſcertain the Britiſh property of this paper at the period, and according to the meaning of the declaration annexed to the laſt treaty of peace with France, each proprietor or holder ſhall be obliged to make a declaration thereof upon oath, in the form and terms which ſhall be hereafter preſcribed, in conſequence of a further delay, which his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty grants them to 1ſt of October, 1766; after the expiration of which, ſuch of

A. D. 1766 the papers as ſhall not have been declared and tendered to be liquidated, ſhall remain excluded, null, and of no value.

" III. Theſe declarations on the part of the proprietors and holders of this paper, ſhall be accompanied by an oath, to be taken before the lord mayor of the city of London, or ſuch other magiſtrate in perſon as ſhall be named for that purpoſe, in ſuch place, and at ſuch times, as ſhall be ſpecified in the preſence of the commiſſaries or deputies appointed, as well on the part of the court of France as on the part of the proprietors of this paper; which commiſſaries or deputies ſhall be allowed to aſk, through the magiſtrate who adminiſters the oath, ſuch queſtions of the deponent as they ſhall judge neceſſary, relative to the object of the oath.

" IV. Each declaration ſhall contain only what belongs to one holder, whether they are his own property, or held by him for account of others; mentioning therein his name, quality, and place of abode; and this declaration ſhall be made conformable to the model annexed to the preſent convention.

" V. Duplicates ſhall be made of theſe declarations, certified to be true, ſigned by the holders of the ſaid papers, and previouſly delivered to the Engliſh and French commiſſaries or deputies, who ſhall be obliged, three days after receiving theſe declarations, to aſſiſt at the taking of the oath before the magiſtrate appointed for that purpoſe.

" VI. As this paper may, ſince the laſt treaty of peace, have paſſed into the hands of three different claſſes of proprietors, namely, the actual proprietors, the intermediate, and the original; the form of an oath ſuitable for each claſs of proprietors ſhall be preſcribed in the three following articles.

[The ſeventh, eighth, ninth, and tenth articles, contain only the forms of oaths.]

" XI. After the adminiſtration of the oaths, there ſhall, within the ſpace of three days, be delivered to each actual proprietor or holder, a certificate of its being Britiſh property by the magiſtrate who adminiſters the oaths; which certificate ſhall be reviſed and ſigned by the reſpective commiſſaries or deputies, and ſhall contain an account of each ſort of paper which ſhall have been therein proved Britiſh property; in order, that by means of this voucher, the poſſeſſor may preſent his paper to the office of the commiſſion at Paris, there to be examined, reviſed, and liquidated, and converted into reconnoiſſances, or rent contracts, according to the reduction fixed and agreed upon: every thing ſhall meet with all poſſible diſpatch, and the holders of this paper ſhall be at no expence whatſoever.

" XII. In caſe any unforeſeen accident ſhall have deprived any actual proprietor of this paper of an intermediate proof between him and the firſt proprietor who received it from Canada, ſo as that the proofs which precede and follow that which ought to join them, and which is miſſing, ſeem to have report and belong to each other; in that caſe only the reſpective commiſſaries or deputies ſhall be empowered to admit the paper it relates to as Britiſh property, if they think proper, notwithſtanding the deficiency which ſhall have broke the link of the proof: and if the reſpective commiſſaries or deputies ſhall chance to differ in opinion, the deciſion of the object in queſtion ſhall be referred to his Britannic Majeſty's Secretary of State, and to the ambaſſador of his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty

" XIII. In virtue of the foregoing arrangement, the court of France grants to the Britiſh proprietors of this paper, an indemnification of premium of 3,000,000 of livres Tournois, payable in the following manner, viz. 500,000 livres Tournois, which ſhall be paid in ſpecie to his Britannic Majeſty's ambaſſador at Paris in the courſe of April next; and 2,500,000 livres Tournois, in reconnoiſſances or rent contracts, of the ſame nature as thoſe which ſhall be given

A. D. 1766 given for the 50 and 25 per cent. on the capitals of the bills of exchange, cards, ordonnances, &c. but the intereſt of which ſhall only run from January 1, 1766; which ſum of 2,500,000 livres Tournois, ſhall be delivered to the aforeſaid ambaſſador immediately after the ratification and exchange of the preſent convention, in reconnoiſſance of 1 000 livres Tournois each, on the expreſs condition, that all the Canada paper belonging to Britiſh ſubjects, not liquidated, ſhall ſhare the ſame fate for its reimburſement as French paper, and ſhall come in courſe of payment with the debts of the ſtate, the reconnoiſſances or rent contracts whereof ſhall be paid as the other debts, without being ſubjected to any reduction whatſoever; and on the further condition, that all the Engliſh proprietors of the ſaid paper ſhall give up every particular indemnification from any cauſe and pretext whatſoever.

" XIV. The ſolemn ratifications of the preſent convention ſhall be exchanged in good and due form, in this city of London, between the two courts, within the ſpace of one month, or ſooner if it be poſſible, to be reckoned from the day of ſigning the preſent convention.

" In witneſs whereof, we the under-written miniſters plenipotentiary of the ſaid two courts, have ſigned in their names, and by virtue of our full powers, the preſent convention, and cauſed it to be ſealed with our arms.

" Done at London, this 29th day of March, 1766.

" H. S. CONWAY, (L. S.)
" COUNT DE GUERCHY, (L. S.)"

In conſequence of this convention, the committee of London merchants appointed by the holders, &c. of Canada bills, preſented the following memorial:

" That the 13 articles of the convention made with the court of France, for the final ſettlement of the Canada bills, is, of itſelf, inſufficient to explain to the proprietors of the ſaid bills, in what manner the ſum of three millions of livres, granted by the court of France, as an indemnification or premium, is to be diſtributed.

" Therefore humbly ſolicit your Excellency to permit the following explanation, which is founded on the committee's propoſition for the payment of theſe papers, delivered on the 27th of December laſt, to be annexed to the convention, and publiſhed therewith, for the information of all whom it may concern.

" And your memorialiſts, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

London, April 28, 1766.

" BROOK WATSON,
" ROBERT ALLEN,
" FRANCIS RYBOT.
" ROBERT HUNTER,
" ISIDORE LYNCH,
" CHARLES CROCKAT,
" WILLIAM GREENWOOD,
" ROBERT GRANT,
" DANIEL VIALARS."

The committee's explanation, relative to the diſtribution of the 3,000,000 of livres granted by the Court of France, as a premium or indemnification in the thirteenth article of the foregoing convention.

" This indemnification having been granted by the Court of France, in conſequence of repeated propoſitions made by the committee appointed for the management of this buſineſs, and approved of by the proprietors and holders of the ſaid papers at various general meetings

A. D. 1766 aſſembled for that purpoſe, at which the diſtribution of the ſaid indemnification or premium, which was the baſis of the convention ſince acceded to, was determined and agreed upon.

“ The committee think it a duty incumbent on them, for the better information of every Britiſh proprietor or holder of Canada paper, to publiſh the particulars of the ſaid diſtribution, which they are now enabled to do with preciſion.

“ In order to form a judgment, as near as poſſible, of the value of each kind of paper, it will be neceſſary to lay before the public a ſtate thereof, as it will ſtand reduced, agreeable to the terms of the convention, and an account of the proportional part of the indemnification or premium of 3,000,000 of livres, which each ſpecies of paper will be entitled to receive, after the cloſing of the liquidation; *i. e.* the firſt of October next.

“ By the moſt exact eſtimates which it has been poſſible to make, as well as by the regiſters of the Court of France, it appears, that there ſtill exiſts unliquidated,

	Livres.
“ Bills of exchange and certificates about, — —	4,000,000
“ Ordonnances and cards, &c. — — —	12,000,000
Total,	16,000,000

“ Which, when liquidated and converted into reconnoiſſances, will produce as under:

“ Four millions paid at 50 per cent. — — —	2,000,000
“ Twelve millions at 25 per cent. — — —	3,000,000
“ The capital of the liquidated debt, — —	5,000,000

“ The diſtribution of the 2,500,000 livres in reconnoiſſances, and the 500,000 livres in ſpecie, agreeable to the propoſition, in conſequence of which the ſame was obtained, will be as follows:

	Livres in reconnoiſſances.
“ On the ordonnances and other papers payable on the footing of 25 per cent. — — — — — —	1,500,000
“ On the ſame, being a proportional part of the remaining million of reconnoiſſances, which is to be divided on the liquidated capital of the whole debt, which amounts to the computed ſum of 5,000,000, —	600,000
Total,	2,100,000

“ The 500,000 livres in ſpecie, being granted as an equivalent for the loſs which would ariſe by receiving the 2,500,000 livres for the indemnification in reconnoiſſances, it muſt be proportionably divided in the ſame manner as the reconnoiſſances, viz. if 2,500,000 livres receive 500,000 livres, what will 2,100,000 receive? Anſwer, 420,000 livres in ſpecie.

“ To be divided in the month of November next, on the ſuppoſed 12,000,000 of ordonnances, cards, &c. —		2,520,000
“ On the bills of exchange, and ſuch certificates as are paid on the footing of 50 per cent. the remaining part of the million of reconnoiſſances, — — —	400,000	
“ Proportion of the 500,000 in ſpecie, being 1-5th or 20 per cent. on 400,000, — — —	80,000	
“ Total on the bills of exchange, &c. —		480,000
“ Amount of indemnification granted, —		3,000,000

The

A. D. 1766 " The above recited ſum of 3,000,000 of livres, will be paid by the committee in November next, to ſuch proprietors who ſhall, in the October preceding, produce to them a certificate ſigned by the Engliſh commiſſary, appointed to adjuſt the liquidation of theſe effects, certifying, that ſuch ſums as thoſe on which the proprietors demand a proportion of the indemnification or premium, had been proved on oath to have been Britiſh property, in conformity to the tenor of the convention. This certificate to be accompanied with a bordereau of liquidation made at Paris, and certified to be true by the commiſſioners appointed by his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty to liquidate the Canada bills.

" BROOK WATSON.
" ROBERT ALLEN.
" FRANCIS RYBOT.
" ROBERT HUNTER.
" ISIDORE LYNCH.
" CHARLES CROCKAT.
" WILLIAM GREENWOOD.
" ROBERT GRANT.
" DANIEL VIALARS."

In this year alſo, an advantageous commercial treaty was concluded between Great Britain and Ruſſia, in the arrangement of which, and removing thoſe obſtacles which impeded its completion, much praiſe is due to the zeal, induſtry, and abilities of Sir George, now Lord Macartney, the then Britiſh miniſter at the court of Peterſburg.

We ſhall be juſtified, by every commercial conſideration, in giving this treaty at large.

" Article I. The peace, friendſhip, and good underſtanding, which have hitherto happily ſubſiſted between their Majeſties of Great Britain and of all the Ruſſias, ſhall be ratified and confirmed by this treaty; ſo that from this time forward, and in all time coming, there ſhall be between the crown of Great Britain on the one hand, and the crown of all the Ruſſias on the other; as alſo between the ſtates, countries, kingdoms, dominions, and territories, that are ſubject to them, a true, ſincere, firm, and perfect peace, friendſhip, and good underſtanding, which ſhall laſt for ever, and ſhall be inviolably obſerved, as well by ſea as by land, and on the freſh waters; and the ſubjects, people and inhabitants on the one part and on the other, of what ſtate or condition ſoever they be, ſhall perform to each other all acts of kindneſs and aſſiſtance poſſible, and ſhall not do one another any hurt or injury whatever.

" II. The ſubjects of the two high contracting powers, ſhall have full liberty of navigation and commerce in all the ſtates ſituated in Europe, where navigation and commerce are permitted at preſent, or ſhall be permitted hereafter by the high contracting parties, to any other nation.

" III. It is agreed, that the ſubjects of the two high contracting parties ſhall have leave to enter, trade, and remain with their ſhips, boats and carriages, loaded or unloaded, in all the ports, places and towns, where ſuch leave is granted to the ſubjects of any other nation; and the ſailors, paſſengers and ſhips, as well Britiſh as Ruſſian, though there ſhould be among their crews ſubjects of ſome other foreign nation, ſhall be received and treated as the moſt favoured nation; and neither the ſailors nor paſſengers ſhall be forced to enter, againſt their will, into the ſervice of either of the two contracting powers, excepting, however, ſuch of their ſubjects as they may want for their own proper ſervice; and if a domeſtic or ſailor deſert his ſervice or his ſhip, he ſhall be reſtored. It is likewiſe agreed, that the ſubjects of the high

1766 contracting parties ſhall have leave to purchaſe, at the current price, all ſorts of commodities of which they may ſtand in need; to repair and refit their ſhips, boats and carriages; to purchaſe all kinds of proviſions for their preſent ſubſiſtance of their voyage; and to remain or depart at their pleaſure, without let or impediment, provided they conform to the laws and ordinances of the reſpective ſtates of the high contracting parties where they may happen to be. In like manner the Ruſſian ſhips that are navigating the ſea, and are met by Engliſh ſhips, ſhall not be impeded in the courſe of their voyage, provided, in the Britiſh ſea, they conform to the eſtabliſhed practice; but, on the contrary, ſhall receive from them all kind of aſſiſtance, as well in the ports of the dominion of Great Britain as in the open ſea.

" IV. It is agreed, that the ſubjects of Great Britain ſhall be at liberty to bring, by water or by land, into all or into ſuch provinces of Ruſſia, where freedom of trade is permitted to the ſubjects of any other nation, all ſorts of merchandize or effects, the traffic or entry of which is not prohibited: and in like manner the ſubjects of Ruſſia ſhall be at liberty to bring, buy and ſell freely, in all, or in ſuch ſtates of Great Britain where freedom of trade is permitted to the ſubjects of any other nation, all ſorts of merchandize and effects, the traffic and entry of which is not prohibited; which is alſo to be equally underſtood of the manufactures and products of the Aſiatic provinces, provided this is not actually forbid by ſome law at preſent in force in Great Britain; comprehending all ſorts of merchandize effects, which the ſubjects of any other nation may buy there, and tranſport into other countries, particularly wrought gold and ſilver, excepting the current coin of Great Britain; and in order to preſerve a juſt equality between the Ruſſian and Britiſh merchants, with regard to the exportation of proviſions and other commodities, it is further ſtipulated, that the ſubjects of Ruſſia ſhall pay the ſame duties on exportation, that are paid by the Britiſh merchants on exporting the ſame effects from the ports of Ruſſia; but then each of the high contracting parties ſhall reſerve to itſelf the liberty of making, in the interior parts of its dominions, ſuch particular arrangements as it ſhall find expedient for encouraging and extending its own navigation. The Ruſſian merchants ſhall enjoy the ſame liberties and privileges as the Britiſh merchants of the Ruſſian company enjoy; and, as the deſign of the two high contracting parties, and the intention of this treaty, is to facilitate the reciprocal commerce of their ſubjects, and to extend its limits and mutual advantages, it is agreed, that the Britiſh merchants trading in the dominions of Ruſſia, ſhall have liberty, in caſe of death, a preſſing exigency, or abſolute neceſſity, when there are no other means of procuring money, or in caſe of bankruptcy, to diſpoſe of their effects, whether of Ruſſian or foreign merchandize, in ſuch manner as the perſons concerned ſhall find moſt advantageous. The ſame thing ſhall be obſerved with regard to the Ruſſian merchants in the dominions of Great Britain. All which, however, is to be underſtood with this reſtriction, that every ſort of permiſſion, on the one ſide and on the other, ſpecified in this article, ſhall not be in any thing contrary to the laws of the country; and the Britiſh, as well as the Ruſſian merchants and their factors, ſhall punctually conform to the rights, ſtatutes and ordinances of the country where they trade, in order to prevent all kind of fraud and impoſition. It is for this reaſon, that the deciſion of ſuch events happening to the Britiſh compting-houſes in Ruſſia, ſhall be ſubmitted, at Peterſburg, to the college of commerce, and in other towns where there is no college of commerce, to the tribunals that have the cognizance of commercial affairs.

" V. It is agreed, that the ſubjects of Great Britain, if they have no rixdollars to pay the cuſtoms or other duties for the merchandize which they import or export, ſhall be allowed to

A. D. 1766 pay them in other foreign coin of a known name and eſtabliſhed value, equal to that of the rixdollar, or in the current coin of Ruſſia, the rixdollar valued at 125 copecs (or pennies).

"VI. All poſſible aſſiſtance and diſpatch ſhall be given to the loading and unloading of ſhips, as well for the importation as the exportation of commodities, according to the regulations on that head eſtabliſhed; and they ſhall not be in any manner detained, under the penalties denounced in the ſaid regulations. In like manner, if the ſubjects of Great Britain make contracts with any chancery or college whatever to deliver certain commodities or effects, upon notifying that ſuch commodities are ready to be delivered, and after they ſhall have been actually delivered at the time ſpecified in theſe contracts, they ſhall be received; and immediately thereupon, the accounts ſhall be ſettled and cleared between the ſaid college or chancery and the Britiſh merchants, at the time fixed in the ſaid contracts. The ſame conduct ſhall be obſerved towards Ruſſian merchants in the dominions of Great Britain.

"VII. It is agreed, that the ſubjects of Great Britain may, in all the towns and places of Ruſſia where freedom of trade is permitted to any other nation, pay for the commodities they purchaſe in the ſame current coin of Ruſſia which they take for the commodities they ſell, unleſs in their contracts they have ſtipulated the contrary; and this ought equally to be underſtood of Ruſſian commodities in the dominions of Great Britain.

"VIII. In the places where embarkations are ordinarily made, permiſſion ſhall be granted to the ſubjects of the high contracting parties, to load their ſhips and carriages with, and tranſport by water or by land, all ſuch ſorts of commodities as they ſhall have purchaſed, (with an exception, however, of thoſe whoſe exportation is prohibited) upon paying the cuſtoms, provided theſe ſhips and carriages conform to the laws.

"IX. The ſubjects of the high contracting parties ſhall pay no greater duty for the importation or exportation of their commodities than is paid by the ſubjects of other nations.—Neverthelefs, to prevent, on both ſides, the defrauding of the cuſtoms, if it ſhould be diſcovered that commodities have been entered clandeſtinely, and without paying the cuſtoms, they ſhall be confiſcated; but, beſides that, no other puniſhment ſhall be inflicted upon the merchants on either ſide.

"X. Permiſſion ſhall be granted to the ſubjects of the two contracting parties to go, come, and trade freely with thoſe ſtates, with which one or other of the parties ſhall at that time, or at any future period, be engaged in war, provided they do not carry military ſtores to the enemy. From this permiſſion, however, are excepted places actually blocked up, or beſieged, as well by ſea as by land; but, at all other times, and with the ſingle exception of military ſtores, the above-ſaid ſubjects may tranſport to theſe places all ſorts of commodities, as well as paſſengers, without the leaſt impediment. With regard to the ſearching of merchant ſhips, men of war and privateers ſhall behave as favourably as the reaſon of the war, at that time exiſting, can poſſibly permit towards the moſt friendly powers that ſhall remain neuter; obſerving, as far as may be, the principles and maxims of the law of nations, that are generally acknowledged.

"XI. All cannon, mortars, muſkets, piſtols, bombs, grenades, bullets, balls, fuſees, flintſtones, matches, powder, ſaltpetre, ſulphur, breaſt-plates, pikes, ſwords, belts, cartouch-bags, ſaddles and bridles, beyond the quantity that may be neceſſary for the uſe of the ſhip, or beyond what every man ſerving on board the ſhip, and every paſſenger ought to have, ſhall be accounted ammunition or military ſtores; and, if found, ſhall be confiſcated, according to law, as contraband goods, or prohibited commodities; but neither the ſhips nor paſſengers, nor

A. D. 1766 nor the other commodities found at the ſame time, ſhall be detained or hindered to proſecute their voyage.

" XII. If, which God forbid! the peace ſhould come to be broke between the two high contracting parties, the perſons, ſhips, and commodities, ſhall not be detained or confiſcated; but they ſhall be allowed, at leaſt, the ſpace of one year, to ſell, diſpoſe, or carry off their effects, and to retire wherever they pleaſe; a ſtipulation that is to be equally underſtood of all thoſe who ſhall be in the ſea or land ſervice: and they ſhall farther be permitted, either at or before their departure, to conſign the effects which they ſhall not as yet have diſpoſed of, as well as the debts that ſhall be due to them, to ſuch perſons as they ſhall think proper, in order to diſpoſe of them according to their deſire, and for their benefit; which debts, the debtors ſhall be obliged to pay in the ſame manner as if no ſuch rupture had happened.

" XIII. In caſe of a ſhipwreck happening in any place belonging to one or other of the high contracting parties, not only ſhall all kind of aſſiſtance be given to the unhappy ſufferers, and no ſort of violence ſhall be offered to them, but even the effects which they ſhall have ſaved themſelves, or which they ſhall have thrown overboard into the ſea, ſhall not be concealed, withheld, or damaged, under any pretext whatſoever; on the contrary, the above-ſaid effects and commodities ſhall be preſerved and reſtored to them, upon their giving a moderate recompence to thoſe who ſhall have aſſiſted them in ſaving their lives, their ſhips, and their commodities.

" XIV. Permiſſion ſhall be granted to Britiſh merchants to build, buy, ſell, and hire houſes in all the territories and towns of Ruſſia; excepting, however, with regard to the permiſſion of building and buying houſes in thoſe towns of Ruſſia which have particular rights of burgherſhip, and privileges inconſiſtent with ſuch indulgence; and it is expreſsly ſpecified, that at St. Peterſburgh, Moſcow, and Archangel, the houſes which the Britiſh merchants ſhall buy, or cauſe to be built, ſhall be exempt from all quartering of ſoldiers, as long as they ſhall belong to them, and ſhall be inhabited by them; but with regard to the houſes which they ſhall hire or let, theſe ſhall be ſubject to all the uſual charges of the town; the tenant and landlord ſettling that matter between them. As to every other town of Ruſſia, the houſes which they ſhall purchaſe or cauſe to be built, in the ſame manner as thoſe which they ſhall hire or let, ſhall not be exempted from the quartering of ſoldiers. Permiſſion ſhall likewiſe be granted the Ruſſian merchants to build, buy, ſell, and let houſes in Great Britain and Ireland, in the ſame manner as is done by the ſubjects of the moſt favoured nations. They ſhall enjoy the free exerciſe of the Greek religion in their houſes, or in ſuch places as are deſtined for that purpoſe; and in like manner the Britiſh merchants ſhall enjoy the free exerciſe of the Proteſtant religion. The ſubjects of either power, eſtabliſhed in Ruſſia or in Great Britain, ſhall have power to diſpoſe of their eſtates, and to leave them by will to whomſoever they think proper, following the cuſtoms and laws of their own proper country.

" XV. Paſſports ſhall be granted to all Britiſh ſubjects who deſire to quit the dominions of Ruſſia, two months after they ſhall have ſignified their deſign of departing, without obliging them to give ſecurity; and if, in that time there appear no juſt cauſe for detaining them, they ſhall be allowed to go; nor ſhall they be obliged to apply, for that purpoſe, to any other quarter than to the college of commerce, or to that which may hereafter be eſtabliſhed in its place. The ſame eaſy methods of departing ſhall, upon like occaſions, and agreeable to the cuſtom of the country, be granted to Ruſſian merchants, who want to quit the dominions of Great Britain.

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" XVI. Britiſh merchants, who ſhall hire or employ domeſtics, ſhall, in this particular, be obliged to conform themſelves to the laws of this empire. And Ruſſian merchants ſhall be equally obliged to do the ſame in Great Britain.

" XVII. In all law-ſuits, and other proceedings, the Britiſh merchants ſhall be amenable only to the college of commerce, or to that which ſhall hereafter be eſtabliſhed for the adminiſtration of juſtice between merchants. But, if it ſhould happen that the Britiſh merchants ſhould have law-ſuits in any place at a diſtance from the above-mentioned college of commerce, both they and the adverſe party ſhall prefer their complaints to the magiſtrate of the ſaid towns; with this proviſo, however, that the Britiſh merchants ſhall have the right to appeal from the ſentence of the magiſtrate, and to demand that of the college of commerce, if they find themſelves aggrieved. The Ruſſian merchants in the dominions of Great Britain, ſhall, in their turn, have the ſame protection and juſtice, which, according to the laws of that kingdom, are granted to other foreign merchants, and ſhall be treated as the ſubjects of the moſt favoured nation.

" XVIII. The Britiſh merchants in Ruſſia, and the Ruſſian merchants in Great Britain, ſhall not be obliged to ſhew their books or papers to any perſon whatever, unleſs it be to make proof in the court of juſtice; ſtill leſs ſhall the ſaid books or papers be taken or detained from them. If, however, the caſe ſhould happen, that any Britiſh merchant becomes bankrupt, he ſhall be amenable at St. Peterſburgh to the college of commerce, or to that which ſhall hereafter be eſtabliſhed for the adminiſtration of juſtice in mercantile affairs; and in other remote towns, to the magiſtrate of the place; and he ſhall be proceeded againſt according to the laws that are or ſhall be made for this purpoſe. Nevertheleſs, if the Britiſh merchants, without becoming bankrupt, refuſe to pay their debts, whether to the treaſury of her Imperial Majeſty, or to individuals, it ſhall be lawful to lay an arreſt upon part of their effects equivalent to their debts; and, in caſe theſe effects ſhould not be ſufficient for diſcharging ſuch debts, they may themſelves be arreſted and detained in cuſtody, until ſuch time as the greater part of their creditors, as well with reſpect to number, as to the value of their reſpective demands, have conſented to their enlargement. With regard to their effects laid under arreſt, they ſhall remain as a depoſit in the hands of thoſe who ſhall be named and duly authoriſed for that purpoſe, by the greater part of their creditors, as is above ſpecified; which delegates ſhall be obliged to appraiſe the effects as ſoon as poſſible, and to make a juſt and fair diſtribution of them to all the creditors, in proportion to their reſpective demands. The ſame procedure ſhall, in like caſes, be obſerved towards the Ruſſian merchants in the dominions of Great Britain, and they ſhall be there protected agreeably to the regulations made in the preceding article.

" XIX. In caſe of complaints and law-ſuits, three perſons of fair and unblemiſhed character among the foreign merchants, ſhall, with a proper regard to circumſtances, be named by the college of commerce; and where there is no ſuch college, by the magiſtrate, to examine the books and papers of the parties; and the report they ſhall make to the college of commerce, or to the magiſtrate, of what they ſhall find in the ſaid books or papers, ſhall be held a good proof.

" XX. The commiſſioners of the cuſtoms ſhall have the charge of examining the ſervants or clerks of the Ruſſian merchants, when they cauſe their goods to be entered, whether they have, for that effect, the orders or full powers of the maſters; and if they have not ſuch, they ſhall not be credited. The ſame conduct ſhall be obſerved towards the ſervants of the Britiſh merchants; and, when the ſaid ſervants, having the orders or full powers of their maſters, 1766 ſhall cauſe their goods to be entered on account of their maſters, theſe laſt ſhall be as reſponſible as if they themſelves had cauſed them to be entered. All the Ruſſian ſervants employed in the ſhops ſhall likewiſe be regiſtered, and their maſters ſhall anſwer for them in the affairs of trade, and in the bargains which they make in their name.

"XXI. In caſe the Ruſſian merchants who are indebted to the Britiſh merchants withdraw from the places of their abode to other parts or diſtricts, the college of commerce, after complaints ſhall have been made to them on the ſubject, and proofs of the debts have been adduced, ſhall cite them three times, allowing them a ſufficient ſpace to appear in perſon; and if they do not appear within the term preſcribed, the ſaid college ſhall condemn them, and ſhall ſend, at the expence of the plaintiff, an expreſs to the governors and waywodes, with orders to put the ſentence in execution, and thus ſhall oblige the debtors to pay the ſums ſpecified.

"XXII. The brokerage ſhall be ſettled with juſtice, and the brokers ſhall be reſponſible for the qualities of the goods and fraudulent package; and ſhall be obliged, after ſufficient proofs produced againſt them, to make up the loſſes to which they have given occaſion.

"XXIII. A regulation ſhall be made to prevent the abuſes that may be committed in the package of leather, hemp, and flax; and, if any diſpute happen between the buyer and the ſeller concerning the weight or the tare, the commiſſioners of the cuſtoms ſhall determine it according to equity.

"XXIV. In order the more effectually to encourage and promote the trade of Great Britain, it is agreed, that, for the future, the Engliſh woollen cloths hereafter ſpecified, ſhall not pay any greater duties on entry than are ſettled in this article: viz. Engliſh cloth for the uſe of the ſoldiery, ſhall pay, in rixdollars, only two copecs, or pennies, for every arſheen, or 71¼ yards, as a duty on entry; coarſe cloth of the county of York, known in the Ruſſian tariff by the name of Coſtrogy, ſhall only pay two copecs for every arſheen: broad flannel ſhall only pay one copec per arſheen; narrow flannel ſhall only pay three-fourths of a copec per arſheen, all as duty on entry. And in every thing that regards the impoſts and duties payable on the importation or exportation of commodities in general, the ſubjects of Great Britain ſhall always be conſidered and treated as the moſt favoured nation.

"XXV. The peace, friendſhip, and good underſtanding ſhall continue for ever between the high contracting parties; and, as it is cuſtomary to fix a certain term to the duration of treaties of commerce, the above-mentioned high contracting parties have agreed, that this treaty ſhall continue for twenty years, counting from the day of ſigning; and after the expiration of that term, they may agree upon the means to renew and prolong it.

"XXVI. The preſent treaty of navigation and commerce ſhall be approved and ratified by his Britannic Majeſty and by her Imperial Majeſty; and the ratifications, in due and lawful form, ſhall be exchanged at St. Peterſburgh, in the ſpace of three months, or ſooner, if poſſible, counting from the day of ſigning.

"In witneſs whereof, we, the under-ſigned, in virtue of the full powers granted to us by his Majeſty the King of Great Britain, and by her Imperial Majeſty of all the Ruſſias, have ſigned the preſent treaty, and thereto ſet our ſeals. Done at St. Peterſburgh, this 20th day of June, 1766.

"George Macartney, (L. S.) Nikita Panin, (L. S.)
(L. S.) Erneſt, Count Munich.
(L. S.) Pr. A. Galitzin.
(L. S.) Gr. Teploff."

A. D. 1766 At this period, addreſſes from the cities of London, Briſtol, and Norwich, as well as other conſiderable corporations, &c. were preſented to his Majeſty on the high price of corn; in conſequence of which, three royal proclamations were iſſued as follow:

The firſt, dated September 10, for putting the laws in execution againſt foreſtalling, regrating, and engroſſing, &c.

The ſecond, dated September 26, for laying an embargo on all ſhips laden, or to be laden in the ports of Great Britain, with wheat or wheat flour, to be exported to foreign parts, and to continue the ſame to the 14th of November following.

The third, of the ſame date, for prohibiting the diſtillation of ſpirits from any wheat, wheat meal, wheat flour, &c. to the 14th of November.

The city of Norwich, in the inſtructions it tranſmitted to its repreſentatives in Parliament, on the dearneſs and ſcarcity of proviſions of all ſorts at this time, ſtated, "that unleſs ſome "method could be diſcovered to reſtrain this growing evil, it would prove fatal to the woollen "manufacture, which," theſe inſtructions add, "had not been preſerved without the greateſt "difficulty."

On the meeting of Parliament in November, the two Houſes addreſſed the Throne on the occaſion; in conſequence of which, his Majeſty was pleaſed to iſſue another proclamation for continuing the embargo already laid on the exportation of corn, &c. for which acts of indemnity alſo paſſed to ſuch perſons as carried the above orders of council into execution.

The following is a correct account of the number of ſhips, which were entered inwards and cleared outwards during this year, from the ports of Liverpool and Briſtol, including only one arrival for the ſame veſſel:

	LIVERPOOL.			BRISTOL.	
	Inward.	*Outward.*		*Inward.*	*Outward.*
Britiſh,	738	795	Britiſh,	384	319
Foreign,	65	70	Foreign,	47	44
	803	865		431	363

The following bills, among ſeveral others, received the royal aſſent in the courſe of this year.

To prohibit, for a limited time, the exportation of corn, &c.

For allowing the free importation of oats.

To continue an act for allowing the free importation of Iriſh proviſions, for a further limited time.

To make a navigable cut or canal from Little Gevendraeth river in the county of Caermarthen.

For repealing the American ſtamp act.

For ſecuring the dependency of the colonies to the Britiſh crown.

For regulating the duties on the importation of Ruſſia linen.

For regulating pilots in the port of Liverpool.

For repealing certain rates and duties on cyder and perry, and for granting other duties in lieu thereof.

For the improvement of tillage.

To explain an act for the improvement of tillage ſo far as relates to the city of London.

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1766 To encourage the leather manufactory, &c.

For improving and preſerving the navigation of the river Stort in the counties of Hertford and Eſſex.

For redeeming certain conſolidated annuities; with reſpect to navy, victualling and tranſport bills.

To make a navigable cut or canal from or near Wilden Ferry in Staffordſhire, to communicate with the river Merſey, in Lancaſhire.

To make the river Soar navigable from the river Trent, to or near Loughborough in the county of Leiceſter.

To make a navigable cut from the river Severn, between Titton bridge, in the county of Worceſter, to communicate with a canal intended to be made between the Trent and Merſey.

For better regulating apprentices and journeymen.

To regulate the loading of ſhips with coals in the ports of Sunderland and Newcaſtle.

To prohibit the importation of foreign wrought ſilks and velvets for a limited time, and to prevent unlawful combinations of workmen employed in the ſilk manufacture.

To prohibit the importation of foreign mitts and gloves.

To prevent the fraudulent marking of frame work, knitted ſtockings and pieces.

For extending the duties on houſes, windows, &c.

For eſtabliſhing four free ports in the Britiſh Weſt India Iſlands.

For repealing certain duties on goods in the colonies, and alſo on Eaſt India goods exported from Great Britain, and for granting other duties in lieu thereof.

For laying additional duties on ſpirits.

For amending an act relating to wines imported, and for ſecuring the ſtamp duties for copies of court rolls, &c.

For laying an additional duty on the importation of ſilks, crapes, and taffeties, and for allowing the exportation of gums to Ireland.

For making the Chelmer navigable from Malden to Chelmsford.

For allowing the exportation of ſalt from Europe to Quebec.

For amending the act for regulating buildings and preventing fires.

For explaining the act to prevent frauds in the admeaſurement of coals.

To continue an act for the importation of ſalted beef, pork, bacon, and butter from Ireland, &c.

To amend an act for regulating certain duties in the Britiſh colonies and plantations, and alſo the duties upon certain Eaſt India goods exported from Great Britain, and for granting other duties inſtead thereof, and for further encouraging, regulating, and ſecuring ſeveral branches of the trade of this kingdom and the Britiſh dominions in America, as relates to the exportation of non-enumerated goods from the Britiſh colonies in America.

For allowing the importation of wheat and wheat flour from the American colonies, for a limited time, free of duty: and another for oats and oatmeal, rye and ryemeal.

The ſupplies granted by Parliament for this year, were as follows:	£.	s.	d.
For 16,000 ſeamen, including 4,287 marines, —	832,000	0	0
For 17,306 land forces, and for defraying the charge of his Majeſty's guards, garriſons, &c. — — —	605,608	12	9
For the general and general ſtaff officers, — —	11,291	8	6½
Carried over,	1,448,900	1	3½

A. D.
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	£.	s.	d.
Brought over,	1,448,900	1	3½
For the maintenance of forces and garriſons in the Plantations, Africa, Gibraltar and Minorca, &c. — — —	392,183	6	5½
For the ſame ſervice, out of the monies remaining of the grant made in the preceding ſeſſion, — — —	2,321	13	10⅛
For the difference of pay between the Britiſh and Iriſh eſtabliſhments to certain troops, &c. — — —	7,993	11	4
For penſions to the widows of reduced land and marine officers,	1,614	0	0
On account of reduced land and marine officers,	138,674	0	0
For defraying the charge of full pay to officers reduced with the tenth company of ſeveral batallions, &c. — —	5,718	6	8
For the out-penſioners of Chelſea Hoſpital, —	109,875	16	8
To the office of ordnance for land ſervice, — —	180,445	19	3
For ſervices performed by the office of ordnance for land ſervice, not provided for by Parliament in 1765, — —	35,061	6	2
To the truſtees of the Britiſh Muſeum, — —	2,000	0	0
For the ordinary of the navy, including half pay to ſea and marine officers, — — — — —	412,983	6	3
To the building and repair of ſhips, docks, wharfs, &c.	277,300	0	0
For the extraordinary expence of land forces, &c. incurred to the 24th of January, 1766, not provided for by Parliament, —	404,310	16	6¾
Out of the ſavings ariſing from the pay of the land forces in the hands of the Paymaſter General, towards defraying extraordinary expences of the land forces, &c. not provided for by Parliament, —	74,777	14	0
For paying off certain Exchequer bills, &c. —	1,000,000	0	0
Ditto, — — — —	800,000	0	0
To replace to the ſinking fund the like ſum paid out of the ſame, to make good the deficiency of certain rates and duties, &c. —	45,561	7	10½
To replace to ditto the like ſum iſſued thereout for paying certain annuities, which were granted in reſpect of navy, victualling and tranſport bills, &c. by an act of the third of George III. —	139,342	2	4
To replace to ditto, the like ſum iſſued thereout for paying the charges of management of the ſaid annuities, &c. — —	4,898	14	9½
To replace to ditto, the like ſum paid out of the ſame, to make good the deficiency of certain duties on wines, cyder and perry, which were appropriated by the third of George III. to pay certain annuities,	29,211	12	6
For the civil eſtabliſhment of Nova Scotia, — —	4,866	3	5
For ſundry expences for Nova Scotia in ſeveral preceding years, not provided for by Parliament, — — —	8,008	12	7
For the civil eſtabliſhment of Georgia, and incidental expences,	3,986	0	0
Ditto of Eaſt Florida, — — —	5,250	0	0
Ditto of Weſt Florida, — — —	5,300	0	0
For general ſurveys in North America, — —	1,784	4	0
Carried over,	4,093,468	14	8⅜

	£.	s.	d.
Brought over,	4,093,468	14	$8\frac{3}{8}$
For the civil eſtabliſhment of Senegambia,	5,550	0	0
To replace to the ſinking fund the like ſum iſſued thereout, to diſcharge certain annuities, &c.	8,708	17	$7\frac{3}{4}$
For the pay, &c. of the militia,	150,000	0	0
For the Britiſh forts and ſettlements, &c. in Africa,	13,000	0	0
For unſatisfied claims on account of the late war in Germany,	106,043	13	$1\frac{1}{4}$
To the Landgrave of Heſſe Caſſel in extinction of all demands,	50,000	0	0
To the Foundling Hoſpital,	32,725	0	0
Monies remaining uniſſued of thoſe granted in the laſt ſeſſion, for the uſe of the ſaid hoſpital,	1,167	10	0
Towards diſcharging the debt of the navy,	1,200,000	0	0
For the redemption of one third part of the capital ſtock of certain annuities, granted in reſpect of navy, victualling and tranſport bills, &c.	870,888	5	$5\frac{1}{2}$
To make good the deficiency of the grants for the ſervice of 1765,	292,828	0	$4\frac{1}{4}$
Total of ſupplies granted this ſeſſion,	8,273,280	2	$6\frac{5}{8}$
Ways and means for this year, viz.			
Malt duty,	750,000	0	0
Land tax,	2,037,824	15	11
By Exchequer bills,	1,800,000	0	0
By annuities and lottery,	1,500,000	0	0
The exceſs of grants for the payment, &c. of the militia in 1765,	80,000	0	0
From the monies agreed to be paid by the King of France, for the maintenance of priſoners,	181,000	0	0
From the monies, remaining in the receipt of the Exchequer for the diſpoſition of Parliament, as were reſerved by the fourth of his Majeſty for defraying certain expences relative to the ſecuring the Britiſh colonies,	60,000	0	0
From the ſinking fund,	2,150,000	0	0
Total ways and means,	8,558,824	15	11
Exceſs of the proviſions,	285,543	16	$2\frac{1}{2}$

We now proceed to a correct account of the extraordinary duties impoſed by Parliament for the national ſervice of this year.

February 21.—Proviſion was made, to remove all doubts concerning the aſcertaining of the duties payable upon the importation of linen cloth of the manufacture of Ruſſia, in purſuance of the act of laſt ſeſſion, and for ſupplying an omiſſion in that act, by declaring that all unrated linen cloth and diaper of Ruſſia, being in breadth more than $22\frac{1}{2}$ and not $31\frac{1}{2}$ inches, were by the ſaid act intended to be rated at 4l. for every 120 Engliſh ells thereof.

March 10.—The duties granted upon cyder and perry by the act of the third of George III. were voted to ceaſe and be no longer paid, from and after June 5; and an additional duty of

6s. per

A. D. 1766 6s. per hogſhead was laid upon all cyder and perry, which ſhould be made within this kingdom, and ſold by retail, to be paid by the retailer thereof. An addition duty of 3l. was alſo laid upon all cyder and perry, which ſhould be imported into this kingdom. A duty of 16s. 8d. per hogſhead, was alſo laid upon all cyder and perry which ſhould be paid within this kingdom, and ſent or conſigned to, and received by, any factor or agent, to be ſold or diſpoſed of; the ſaid duty to be paid by ſuch factor or agent: and a duty of ſix ſhillings per hogſhead upon all cyder and perry made for ſale within this kingdom, by dealers in, or retailers of cyder or perry, from fruit of their own growth, to be paid by ſuch dealers and retailers.

April 21.—The ſeveral rates and duties payable upon houſes in Great Britain, were voted to ceaſe and determine from and after October 10, 1766; and from the ſaid October 10, there ſhould be paid upon every dwelling houſe, inhabited, within that part of Great Britain called England, the yearly ſum of 3s.: and upon every inhabited dwelling houſe in Scotland, the yearly ſum of 1s.

The ſeveral rates and duties, payable for windows or lights in Great Britain, alſo ceaſed and determined from October 10, 1766, and the following rates and duties were granted in lieu thereof, viz. for every window or light, in every dwelling houſe inhabited within the kingdom of Great Britain, which ſhall contain ſeven windows or lights, and no more, the yearly ſum of 2d. for each window or light in ſuch houſe: for every dwelling-houſe containing eight windows, the yearly ſum of 6d. for each window; and an advance of 2d. upon each window from that number to thirteen, incluſive, the laſt number paying 1s. 4d. for each: every houſe containing from thirteen to nineteen windows, incluſive, to pay 1s. 6d. upon each window: and from nineteen to twenty-four, incluſive, an advance of 1d. upon each window, twenty-four paying 1s. 11d.: and for every houſe containing twenty-five windows and upwards, 2s. for every ſuch window.

April 29.—Proviſion was made, for declaring that the additional duties, granted by an act of the third year of his Majeſty's reign, upon wines imported, were, by the ſaid act, intended to be paid without any diſcount or deduction inwards, or drawback on re-exportation.

May 5.—Liberty was granted to export coals from Great Britain to the iſlands of Guernſey, Jerſey and Alderney, annually, free of the duty laid upon all coals exported, by the act of laſt ſeſſion, viz. to Guernſey any quantity of coals not exceeding 100 chaldrons, Newcaſtle meaſure, from the port of Newcaſtle, and 150 ſuch chaldrons from Swanſea; to Jerſey 350 from Newcaſtle, and 150 from Swanſea; and to Alderney 110 from Newcaſtle, and 10 from Swanſea.

May 8.—Proviſion was made for declaring, that the power granted by an act of the ſecond of George III. chap. 5. to remove ſpirits made for exportation to warehouſes for home conſumption, ſhould extend to ſuch ſpirits only as are made from corn, malt, or melaſſes.

From Auguſt 1, 1766, there was voted to be paid to his Majeſty, upon every pound weight avoirdupois of Italian wrought ſilks, called crapes or tiffanies, imported, a duty of 17s. 6d. to be paid by the importer, above the duties now payable thereon; and that the produce of the ſaid duty be carried to the ſinking fund.

A quantity not exceeding thirty tons weight, in any one year, of gum Senega and Arabic, was allowed to be exported, free of duty, under proper regulations and reſtrictions, to Ireland, for the uſe of the manufacturers there.

1766 Authority was given, to permit, under proper regulations and reſtrictions, the importation into this kingdom, from the Iſle of Man, of ſuch bugles as were brought into the ſaid iſle before March 1, 1765, on payment of one half of the old ſubſidy only.

May 10.—All the duties then payable on the importation of cotton wool into this kingdom, were ordered to ceaſe and determine; and a duty of 3s. per piece was laid upon all foreign cambrics and French lawns, which ſhould be exported from this kingdom to the Britiſh colonies in America.

The duties impoſed by an act made in the laſt ſeſſion, upon the exportation from this kingdom of wrought ſilks, Bengals and ſtuffs, mixed with ſilk or herba, of the manufacture of Perſia, China, or Eaſt India, and callicoes, printed, dyed, painted, or ſtained there, alſo ceaſed and determined: and there was granted to his Majeſty, on all ſuch wrought ſilks, Bengals, and ſtuffs, mixed with ſilk, &c. of the manufacture of Perſia, China, or Eaſt India, and callicoes, printed, dyed, painted, or ſtained there, as ſhould have been publicly ſold in this kingdom on or before a certain day, to be limited, a ſubſidy of poundage after the rate of 1s. for every 20s. of the value of ſuch goods, according to the groſs price at which the ſame were originally ſold at the public ſales thereof; ſuch ſubſidy to be paid by the proprietors of the ſaid goods: there was alſo granted to his Majeſty, a like ſubſidy upon all ſuch wrought ſilks, Bengals, ſtuffs, and callicoes, as ſhould be publicly ſold on or after ſuch day to be limited, the ſaid ſubſidy to be paid by the Eaſt India Company, for ſuch of the ſaid goods as ſhould be ſold at their public ſales, and by the buyers of the ſaid goods, at any other public ſale.

All ſugars which ſhould be imported into this kingdom, from any Britiſh colony in America, were made ſubject to the like duties as were then payable upon the importation of French ſugars.

May 14.—Every gallon of ſingle brandy ſpirits or aqua vitæ, imported into Great Britain from beyond the ſeas, not being the produce of the Britiſh colonies or plantations, was charged with an additional duty of 6d. before landing, to be paid by the importer: and every gallon of brandy ſpirits, or aqua vitæ, above proof, called double brandy, imported into Great Britain from beyond the ſeas, not being the produce of the ſaid colonies, was charged an additional duty of 1s. to be paid by the importer before landing.

For encouraging the exportation of hempen cordage manufactured in Great Britain, from hemp imported from foreign parts, and alſo from hemp of the growth of Great Britain, there was allowed a bounty of 2s. 4¾d. for every hundred weight of ſuch cordage ſo exported; the ſaid bounty to be paid upon the exportation, out of the net duties which had been, or ſhould be, paid upon the importation of all foreign hemp into this kingdom; and the drawback of 2s. 10½d. then payable on all foreign hemp exported from Great Britain to foreign parts, was ordered to ceaſe and determine.

Such part of the duties laid, by a reſolution of this Houſe of the 10th inſtant, upon ſugars imported into this kingdom from any Britiſh colony in America, as ſhould ariſe over and above the duties then payable upon ſugars ſo imported, were ordered to be paid into the receipt of the Exchequer, and reſerved for the diſpoſition of Parliament.

The duty of 3s. laid by a reſolution of the Houſe of Commons, upon every piece of cambric and French lawn exported from this kingdom to the Britiſh colonies in America, was alſo ordered to be paid into the ſaid receipt, and reſerved for the diſpoſition and appropriation of Parliament.

A. D. 1766. *May* 16.—The following duties were voted:—1l. 10s. ſterling, for every negro which ſhould be exported in foreign veſſels from the iſland of Jamaica; 1l. 10s. ſterling, for every negro which ſhould be imported into the iſland of Dominica; 6d. ſterling for every barrel of beef and pork imported into the ſaid iſland; 6d. ſterling for every firkin of butter imported into the ſaid iſland; 6d. ſterling for every hundred weight avoirdupois of ſugar imported into the ſaid iſland; 2s. ſterling for every hundred weight avoirdupois of cocoa imported into the ſaid iſland; 6d. ſterling for every hundred gallons of melaſſes imported into the ſaid iſland; 6d. ſterling for ever hundred weight avoirdupois of coffee imported into the ſaid iſland: the ſaid duties were to be applied in defraying the expence of carrying into execution ſuch directions and regulations, as might be given and made by any act in that ſeſſion of Parliament, for opening and eſtabliſhing any ports in the ſaid iſland, for the more free importation and exportation of goods and merchandize, and for maintaining, ſecuring, and improving, ſuch ports. No other duties were to be paid upon the importation of any foreign American goods, in any ſuch port in the iſland of Dominica. All goods of American produce, which ſhould be imported into this kingdom, from ſuch ports as might be ſo opened, in the ſaid iſland of Dominica, were to be deemed foreign, and made ſubject to the ſaid duties reſpectively, as were then payable upon the importation of the like goods, of the produce of the French plantations in America, except only certain quantities of ſugars, coffee, cocoa, pimento, and ginger, the amount of the importation whereof ſhould be limited, under proper regulations and reſtrictions, in reſpect of the produce of the ſaid goods, within the ſaid iſland. The ſaid duties were appropriated to ſuch uſes, as the duties upon ſuch foreign goods were then applicable.

A general ſtatement of the public debts at the receipt of the Exchequer, ſtanding out January 5, 1766, with the annual intereſt, &c.

	Principal Debt.			*Annual Intereſt*, &c.		
	£.	*s.*	*d.*	£.	*s.*	*d.*
* Exchequer, — —	2,019,981	12	9½	152,954	4	8
Eaſt India Company, —	4,200,000	0	0	127,687	10	0
Bank of England, —	100,768,609	17	9¾	3,252,392	2	4½
By remaining annuities of one life each, granted on the lotteries of 1745 and 1746.—Ditto on the 3 per cent. annuities of 1757 and 1761; as alſo on the annuities of 1 per cent. for 98 years to the ſubſcribers to the loan of 12,000,000l. granted for the ſervice of the year 1762, together with the charges of management to the Bank of England, — —	—			336,115	10	3
South Sea Company, —	27,125,309	13	11½	829,507	8	1½
Total,	130,713,901	4	6¾	4,698,656	15	5

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* The land taxes and duties on malt being annual grants, are not charged in this account, nor the 1,000,000l. charged on the deduction of 6d. per pound on penſions, nor the 1,000,000l. borrowed in 1764, charged on the ſupplies in 1766, nor the 800,000l. borrowed in 1765, and charged on the ſaid ſupplies.

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IMPORTS and EXPORTS, from Christmas 1765, to Christmas 1766.

Countries.	Imports.			Exports.		
Africa,	£. 52,217	3	11	£. 496,789	12	0
Canaries,	10,378	12	6	47,472	13	10
Denmark and Norway,	93,473	0	1	157,064	0	10
Eaſt Country,	152,884	16	7	171,869	18	0
Eaſt India,	1,975,981	7	9	783,961	17	10
Flanders,	125,211	8	5	433,553	12	7
France,	81,470	13	9	201,032	6	10
Germany,	633,672	17	11	1,811,268	2	3
Greenland,	9,625	5	4	33	0	0
Holland,	374,587	0	1	1,602,924	6	7
Ireland,	1,154,982	4	7	1,920,015	19	6
Italy,	812,179	4	0	839,838	7	7
Madeiras	6,988	17	8	36,260	10	3
Portugal,	347,806	2	2	667,104	7	8
Ruſſia,	684,585	16	5	109,900	16	10
Spain,	558,002	12	7	1,078,731	10	1
Streights,	14,103	13	10	59,678	19	1
Sweden,	195,449	5	9	47,393	18	1
Turkey,	106,522	7	9	100,796	4	4
Venice,	63,105	7	9	42,643	10	0
Alderney,	82	5	0	1,984	0	3
Guernſey,	22,534	2	1	40,059	3	11
Jerſey,	12,241	19	4	23,521	5	4
Antigua,	396,465	12	3	142,326	16	7
Anguilla,	3,225	19	11	—	—	—
Barbadoes,	296,732	16	7	194,042	7	1
Bermudas,	3,475	14	1	11,299	6	3
Canada,	46,982	12	3	366,573	4	11
Carolina,	293,587	7	8	296,732	1	4
Dominica,	111,649	5	9	20,792	6	0
Florida,	2,113	7	7	38,718	14	10
Georgia,	53,074	16	7	67,268	5	5
Granades,	264,194	5	7	89,431	1	9
Havannah,	1,511	3	3	—	—	—
Hudſon's Bay,	10,199	17	6	4,631	6	3
Jamaica,	1,201,801	16	4	415,544	17	4
Martinico,	13	15	0	—	—	—
Montſerrat,	71,762	2	4	26,826	1	10
Nevis,	74,200	16	0	18,989	8	0
New England,	141,773	4	11	409,642	7	6
Newfoundland,	45,207	15	0	65,779	10	9
New Providence,	4,585	9	5	15,085	13	9
New York,	67,020	11	8	330,829	15	8
Nova Scotia,	1,433	9	4	14,181	6	5
Pennſylvania,	26,851	3	1	327,314	5	3
St. Croix,	11,807	3	7	1,425	7	0
St. John's Iſland,	—	—	—	560	19	2
St. Chriſtopher's,	304,778	9	2	91,736	17	6
St. Lucia,	581	5	0	—	—	—
St. Vincent,	31,028	1	7	5,325	6	5
St. Euſtatia,	96	1	6	—	—	—
Tobago,	—	—	—	13	2	6
Tortola,	48,280	5	8	18,218	0	7
Virginia and Maryland,	461,693	9	4	372,548	16	1
Weſt Indies in general,	—	—	—	1,673	11	0
Spaniſh Weſt Indies,	11,601	2	6	3,555	1	11
Totals,	11,475,775	5	8	14,024,964	2	8
Exports exceed the Imports,	2,549,188	17	0			

Extract

A. D. 1766 **Extract from the general bill of all the chriſtenings and burials within the city of London, from December 10, 1765, to December 11, 1766.**

Chriſtened, Males,	8,343	Buried, Males,	11,714
Females,	7,914	Females,	12,197
	16,257		23,911

Amſterdam,—births, 4,547; deaths, 7,271; marriages, 2,936.
Paris,—births, 18,773; deaths, 19,694; foundlings, 5,604.
Venice,—births, 4,984; deaths, 5,171; foundlings, 204.
Copenhagen,—births, 2,643; deaths, 1,939; marriages, 870.
Hamburg,—births, 2,893; deaths, 3,400; marriages, 1,079.
Koningſberg,—births, 2,231; deaths, 2,072; marriages, 708.
Liverpool,—chriſtened, 1,017; buried, 1,025; marriages, 503.
Mancheſter,—chriſtened, 887; buried, 1,019; marriages, 368.
Cheſter,—chriſtened, 367; buried, 350; marriages, 153.
Iſles of Zealand, Bornholm, and Ferro,—births, 7,256; deaths, 6,363; marriages, 1,853.
Denmark, Norway, and the Daniſh dominions in Germany,—births, 62,480; deaths, 55,683.
Bailiwick of Aggerhuys, in Norway,—births, 10,280; deaths, 9,135.
The whole kingdom of Pruſſia,—births, 31,129; deaths, 22,570; marriages, 2,936.

1767 At this period, the diſpute between Great Britain and its colonies appeared to have obtained an happy termination.—Their deſires had been gratified in the moſt reaſonable manner, and the parent ſtate had teſtified, by its conduct, the ſincereſt intentions to remain on the moſt friendly terms with its American dependencies.

But, in a very ſhort time, the predictions which had been made by many, that the conceſſions of Great Britain to America, would eventually increaſe, inſtead of annihilating the turbulent diſpoſition which the Americans had diſcovered, began to find a juſtification in many inſtances of their conduct.

During the late troubles, a ſpirit of faction had been conjured up in America, which was not in the leaſt mollified by the conceſſions of the Britiſh government; on the contrary, it ſeemed to have enliſted under its banners a party of men who were determined to ſeize every opportunity to diminiſh the power and influence of the mother country, and whoſe talents were equal to their enmity; while that enmity was the more dangerous, as it was cloathed in the ſpecious garb of reſpect and attachment to Great Britain.

When the ſtamp act was repealed, the miniſtry who propoſed and adopted that meaſure, thought themſelves obliged to ſave, in ſome degree, the national honour, to paſs a bill, declaratory of the ſupreme ſovereignty of Great Britain over all her colonies, and of her right to bind them, by her laws, in all caſes whatever.

By the ſame declaration, they annulled all the reſolves and proceedings of the provincial aſſemblies, that tended to claim any authority in their reſpective diſtricts independent of that of Great Britain, eſpecially the ſole and excluſive privilege of impoſing taxes and levying money.

This declaratory act, which was conſidered at home as neceſſary to maintain the dignity of the Britiſh government in the midſt of ſo much conceſſion, was regarded by the Americans as a reſervation of claims which were to be enforced whenever a favourable opportunity occurred.

1767 This idea, therefore, which was propagated with no common zeal in the colonies, prevented ſo large a portion of their late ill-humour from dying away, that the aſſembly of New York, in direct oppoſition to an act of the Britiſh Parliament, for providing the troops cantoned throughout the colonies, with ſuch neceſſaries in their quarters as were indiſpenſable for their comfortable ſubſiſtence, paſſed an act, by which theſe proviſions were regulated and ſettled in a mode of their own, without manifeſting the leaſt regard to that preſcribed by Great Britain.

When this extraordinary and unexpected tranſaction was brought before the Houſe of Commons, much debate took place, and ſome ſevere meaſures were propoſed; but the general opinion being more diſpoſed to acts of moderation, a bill was paſſed, by which the governor, council, and aſſembly of New York were prohibited from paſſing or aſſenting to any act of aſſembly for any purpoſe whatever, till they had, in every reſpect, complied with all the terms of this act of the Britiſh Parliament.

At Boſton, the ſame refractory ſpirit prevailed; and notwithſtanding the juſtice of granting due compenſations to thoſe who had ſuffered from the licentiouſneſs of the populace, during the riots on account of the ſtamp act, the general aſſembly was not eaſily perſuaded to acquit itſelf of that duty.

All theſe proofs of a diſobedient temper in the colonies, at length rouſed the ſpirit of the Britiſh government; and an act of Parliament was paſſed, which impoſed duties on tea, paper, painters colours, and glaſs imported into the Britiſh plantations in America.

This act was received in the colonies with as much diſapprobation as that which impoſed the ſtamp duties: the populace renewed its abuſive behaviour, and the ſuperior order of people determined to give it ſteady oppoſition.

The inhabitants of Boſton ſet the example on this occaſion: and, at a public meeting of its freeholders, and other inhabitants, on the 28th of October, in this year, ſeveral reſolutions were voted, all of which were levelled at their commerce with Great Britain. From ſome of theſe votes, which were paſſed with an unfortunate unanimity, we ſhall give the following extracts:—

" That effectual methods ſhould be taken to prevent the unneceſſary importation of European commodities.

" That all prudent and legal meaſures ſhould be adopted to encourage and produce home manufactures, and to leſſen the uſe of ſuperfluities, particularly the following articles; viz. loaf-ſugar, cordage, anchors, coaches, chaiſes, and carriages of all ſorts; horſe furniture, men's and women's hats, ready-made apparel, houſehold furniture, gloves, ſhoes, ſoal-leather, ſheathing and deck nails, gold and ſilver thread lace of all ſorts, gold and ſilver buttons, wrought plate of all ſorts, diamonds, ſtone and paſte ware, ſnuff, muſtard, clocks and watches, ſilverſmiths and jewellers ware, broad cloths that coſt above 10s. per yard, muffs, furs, and tippets, and all ſorts of millinery ware, ſtarch, women's and children's ſtays, fire-engines, china ware, ſilk and cotton velvets, pewterers hollow ware, linſeed oil, glue, lawns, cambrics, ſilks of all kinds for garments, malt liquors, cheeſe, &c. &c.

" That divers new manufactures be immediately eſtabliſhed in America; and, in particular, for the making of glaſs and paper; and that all prudent means be employed to encourage the conſumption of glaſs and paper made in America, &c.

" That no gloves be uſed at funerals but ſuch as are manufactured in America; and that no new garments be procured on ſuch occaſions but ſuch as ſhall be abſolutely neceſſary, &c."

The ſtate of American affairs engaged, as it had demanded, the attention of Parliament; but the

A. D. 1767 the buſineſs which more immediately occupied the public attention, at this particular period, was that of the Eaſt India Company.

A parliamentary committee had been appointed, early in the ſeſſion, to examine into the ſtate of the Company; and it was ſome time after ordered, after much animated debate, that copies of the Company's charters, their treaties with, and grants from the country powers, together with their letters and correſpondence to and from their ſervants in India, the ſtate of their revenues in Bengal, Bahar, Orixa, and other places, ſhould all be laid before the Houſe of Commons: alſo an account of all expences incurred by government on the Company's account, whether in the naval, military, or other departments. In the courſe of this rigorous enquiry, which was agitated with uncommon violence, an order was made for printing the Eaſt India papers; but, on a petition from the court of directors, it was agreed, that the private correſpondence between the Company and its ſervants ſhould not be committed to the preſs.

Among other important matters, which, though not formally brought into debate, were rather fully diſcuſſed, was the right of the Company to its territorial acquiſition. But though this great ſubject was frequently taken up, the Houſe of Commons appeared to poſſeſs no very forward inclination to determine on a queſtion pregnant with ſuch important conſequences. The miniſtry, though diſpoſed to aſſert the right, with a view to relieve the burthened ſtate of the finances, and a large party of the proprietors of India ſtock, who were equally inclined to deny it, poſſeſſed the ſame opinion with reſpect to the prudence of a reaſonable compoſition between government and the Company.

In the maen time, and ſo late in this parliamentary ſeſſion as the 6th of May, a general court of the Eaſt India proprietors was held, when the Midſummer dividend was declared to be 6¼ per cent.; and, about the ſame time, a ſcheme of propoſals for an accommodation was agreed to. Theſe were laid before the miniſtry, but the members of it were at this time ſo divided, that they declined taking any part in the negociation but in Parliament: a petition was therefore preſented to the Houſe of Commons by the Eaſt India Company, which contained two ſets of propoſals for a temporary agreement, which was to laſt during the period of three years.

By the firſt of theſe propoſals, government was to grant the Company ſome advantages with reſpect to the inland duties on their teas, and a draw-back on the exportation of them to Ireland and the colonies; and ſome others reſpecting raw ſilk, calicoes, muſlins, the recruiting ſervice, and military ſtores. That, in return, after deducting 400,000l. per annum, in lieu of the Company's former commercial profits, the nett produce of all the remaining revenues and trade, after deducting all charges, were to be equally divided between government and the Company; provided that the Company's property in the new acquiſitions continued for three years.

By the ſecond propoſal, the Company offered, upon the ſame terms, to pay the ſpecific ſum of 400,000l. per annum for three years, by half-yearly payments; and to indemnify the public for any loſs the revenue might ſuſtain by granting the advantages which they acquired in the tea trade, if the advanced conſumption of it, taken at an average of five years, did not anſwer that end.

Of theſe, the latter propoſal was accepted by the Houſe, with this ſole difference, that the agreement was limited to two, inſtead of three years; and a bill was accordingly paſſed upon theſe terms.

A meſſage from the miniſtry had been read at the general court which declared the laſt increaſe of dividend, recommending to the Company to make no augmentation of it, till their

affairs

1767 affairs had undergone a further conſideration. This meſſage not producing the effect deſigned by it, two bills were brought into the Houſe; one for regulating the qualifications of voters in trading companies, and the other for regulating the making of dividends by the Eaſt India Company. By the laſt of theſe bills, the late act of the Company was reſcinded, and they were reſtrained from raiſing their dividends above 10 per cent. till the next meeting of Parliament.

The Company petitioned againſt this bill; and made a propoſal, if it was laid aſide, that they would bind themſelves from any further increaſe of dividend during the temporary agreement; but the petition and the propoſal were equally ineffectual, and the bill was carried againſt a very violent, numerous, and able oppoſition through both houſes.

It appears to us, that in a matter of ſuch importance as this miniſterial meaſure, we ſhould not fulfil our duty were we to be wholly inattentive to the principles on which this bill was founded, and the leading arguments that were advanced againſt it.

To prevent the payment of an higher dividend than the circumſtances of the Company could afford, without endangering their credit; to regulate the dividend in ſuch a manner, as to put an end to the fluctuation of that ſtock, which, if allowed to proceed, might not only introduce a pernicious ſpirit of gaming, but would alſo tend to depreſs the other ſtocks; and to prevent any encroachment that might be made, by any dividend of the Company, upon the revenue of its lately acquired territory, ſo that the claim of the public might ſuffer no loſs, till that affair was finally decided, were the principal grounds on which the authors and promoters of this bill reſted their ſupport of it.

The leading arguments in oppoſition to it were:—That by the ſtate of the Company's affairs laid before Parliament, it was evident that they were in a condition to make a much greater increaſe of dividend, without affecting their credit; and that if they were allowed to be in circumſtances to pay government 400,000l. per annum, there could be no doubt of their being well able to divide 80,000l. among themſelves.—That the ſhort period to which the reſtriction of the dividend was confined, would tend to encourage, inſtead of checking the infamous practices of the Alley; and that the propoſal made by the Company, of ſubmitting to a reſtriction of the dividend of $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. during the temporary agreement, would have obviated all the miſchiefs, and ſecured every good end which might be purpoſed, but could not be attained by the bill in queſtion, without being liable to the objection of violence or injuſtice.—That if a ſuppoſition that the right to the territorial acquiſitions in the Eaſt Indies was not veſted in the Company, ſhould be admitted as one of the grounds of this bill, a precedent would be eſtabliſhed very dangerous indeed to the property of the ſubject; and that if a legiſlative interpoſition was permitted to controul the dividend of a trading company, to whom no blame was imputable, and who had lent their money to the public upon the expreſs ſtipulation that they might exerciſe their diſcretion with regard to the dividend, provided that their undivided effects were ſufficient to anſwer their debts, ſuch a meaſure might be attended with conſequences very alarming indeed to public credit.

Of two hundred and nine bills which received the royal aſſent in this ſeſſion of Parliament, we ſhall make particular mention of the following, as more immediately relating to our ſubject.

A bill to continue, for a further limited time, the free importation of wheat, and wheat meal, from any part of Europe, and to diſcontinue the duties payable on the importation of barley meal and pulſe.

A. D. 1767 For diſcontinuing the duties on the importation of tallow, hogs-lard, and greaſe.

For granting an aid to his Majeſty by a land-tax for the ſervice of this year.

[The taxes with which the neceſſaries of life were charged, in conſequence of the expences produced by the late war, bore ſo hard upon the laborious and manufacturing part of the nation, that it had been determined, ſince the concluſion of the peace, to continue the land-tax at four ſhillings in the pound. Indeed, from the circumſtances of the times, the whole land-tax began to be conſidered as a part of the ſettled revenue, which muſt look to the contingencies of a future, and perhaps diſtant ſtate of public proſperity, to be diminiſhed. But the landed intereſt was of a different opinion, and, in oppoſition to the miniſtry, carried the reſolution of reducing the land-tax to three ſhillings in the pound, by a conſiderable majority.—This, we believe, was the firſt inſtance of a miniſter being in the minority on a money bill ſince the Revolution.]

For raiſing 1,800,000l. by loans on Exchequer bills, and a lottery for the ſervice of the preſent year.

For laying an additional duty on baſt or chip, ſtraw, cane, and horſe-hair hats or bonnets imported.

For making the river Ure navigable, from its junction with the river Swale to the borough of Rippon, in Yorkſhire.

For raiſing 1,500,000l. by annuities, &c. for the ſervice of the preſent year; to be charged on the ſinking fund.

For redeeming certain annuities, in reſpect of navy, victualling, and tranſport bills, and ordnance debentures.

For redeeming part of the joint ſtock of annuities, charged on ſeveral additional duties on wines imported, and alſo on cyder and perry.

For granting additional duties on certain linen cloth imported.

For allowing the free importation of rice, ſago duſt, and vermicelli, for a limited time from the American colonies.

For improving and extending the navigation of the river Hull, from Frodingham Beck to Driffield, in the Eaſt Riding of Yorkſhire.

For making Codbeck brook navigable from the river Swale to Thirſk, in Yorſhire.

For preventing the wear of cambrics.

For extending the window act to Scotland.

For altering the duties on policies, and leſſening the allowance for prompt payment of certain ſtamp duties.

For granting certain duties in the Britiſh American colonies.

For regulating the dividend of the Eaſt India Company.

For eſtabliſhing an agreement between government and the Eaſt India Company.

For regulating the manufactures, &c. in the iſle of Man.

For empowering his Majeſty to permit the importation of corn duty free, for a further limited time, &c.

[The quantity of corn brought into the port of London, between the 3d of March and the 2d of July, in conſequence of the different acts paſſed for the importation of that neceſſary article, amounted to 115,497 quarters.]

For taking off the duty of one ſhilling per pound on all black and ſinglo tea, and for granting a drawback on teas exported to Ireland and America.

For

A. D. 1767 For granting certain duties on foreign linen, and a premium for the encouragement of raiſing of hemp.

For reſtraining the aſſembly of New York from paſſing any act, till they had complied with the act of Parliament for furniſhing his Majeſty's troops with the neceſſaries required by that act.

For putting the American duties into the hands of commiſſioners.

Two orders of his Majeſty in council appeared in the London gazette of the 5th of September; by the firſt of which, the free importation into this kingdom of oats or oat-meal, rye or rye-meal, wheat or wheat-flour, barley or barley-meal, peas, beans, tares, malt, bread, biſcuit, ſtarch, &c. from any part of Europe, was permitted from the expiration of the time before limited, viz. the 10th of September, until twenty days after the commencement of the next ſeſſion of Parliament. By the ſecond, the prohibition of the exportation of any ſort of corn, grain, meal, malt, flour, bread, &c. was extended in the ſame manner.

SUPPLIES granted by Parliament for this year:—	£.	s.	d.
For 16,000 ſeamen, including 4,287 marines,	832,000	0	0
For 16,754 land-forces, including 2,461 invalids,	593,986	15	7
For general and general ſtaff-officers, &c.	12,293	18	$6\frac{1}{2}$
For maintaining forces and garriſons in the Plantations, Gibraltar, &c.	405,607	2	$11\frac{9}{8}$
For the difference of pay between the Britiſh and Iriſh eſtabliſhment of ſix regiments, of foot, &c.	7,201	14	7
Penſions to officers widows,	1,536	0	0
On account of reduced officers,	135,299	8	4
Allowances to officers and privates of two troops of horſe-guards, and a regiment of horſe reduced, &c.	2,103	11	8
For the full pay of certain officers reduced with the 10th company of ſeveral battalions, &c.	5,633	3	4
To the office of ordnance for land ſervice,	169,600	0	2
To ditto, for ſervices not provided for by Parliament in 1766,	51,190	6	6
The ordinary of the navy, &c. including half-pay, &c.	409,177	4	3
Towards building and repairs, &c. of ſhips, and other extra works,	298,144	0	0
For purchaſing hemp, &c.	30,000	0	0
For diſcharging certain Exchequer bills,	1,800,000	0	0
To make good to his Majeſty the like ſum iſſued by his orders, in purſuance of addreſſes from the Houſe of Commons,	12,951	2	2
Extra expences of the land-forces, not provided for by Parliament,	315,917	16	5
Out-penſioners of Chelſea hoſpital,	106,083	2	6
On account of the civil eſtabliſhment of Nova Scotia,	4,866	3	5
Expences reſpecting ditto, not provided for by Parliament,	691	8	0
On account of the civil eſtabliſhment of Georgia, &c.	3,986	0	0
Ditto of Eaſt Florida, &c.	4,750	0	0
Ditto of Weſt Florida, &c.	4,800	0	0
General ſurveys in North America,	1,601	14	0
On account of Senegambia,	5,550	0	0
The marriage portion of the Queen of Denmark,	40,000	0	0
Carried forward,	£. 5,254,970	12	$5\frac{5}{8}$

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	£.	s.	d.
Brought over,	5,254,970	12	5⅝
Towards building a paſſage to the Houſe of Commons,	2,000	0	0
For maintaining, &c. Britiſh forts and ſettlements on the coaſt of Africa,	13,000	0	0
To replace to the ſinking fund the like ſum, to diſcharge certain annuities, eſtabliſhed on account of certain navy, victualling, and tranſport bills, &c.	104,506	11	10
To replace to ditto the like ſum, iſſued for paying the management of the ſaid annuities,	1,592	1	9¼
To replace to ditto the like ſum, iſſued for diſcharging the annuities attending ſuch part of the joint-ſtock as was redeemed, &c.	8,708	17	7¾
To replace to ditto the like ſum paid out of the ſame, to make good the deficiency on ſeveral rates, duties, &c.	49,660	9	2½
To replace to ditto the like ſum paid out of the ſame, to make good the deficiency of certain duties on wine, cyder, and perry, &c.	12,758	13	7
For a compenſation to Dr. Peter Swinton, for the damage ſuſtained by him at Cheſter during the late rebellion,	700	0	0
To enable his Majeſty to redeem and pay off the remainder of the capital ſtock of annuities, granted in reſpect of certain navy, victualling, and tranſport bills, ordnance debentures, &c.	1,741,776	10	11
To enable his Majeſty to redeem and pay off the fourth part of the capital ſtock of annuities eſtabliſhed by the act of 3d George III. to be redeemed, &c.	875,000	0	0
Towards diſcharging the debt of the navy,	300,000	0	0
To make good the deficiency of the grants for the ſervice of 1766,	129,144	2	8
To the Foundling Hoſpital,	28,000	0	0
For putting forth apprentices from the ſaid hoſpital,	1,500	0	0
To the African Company, on account of the eſtabliſhment of Senegal and its dependencies, &c.	3,500	0	0
Towards defraying the contingent expences of the forces ſerving in North America,	2,000	0	0
Total of Supplies,	8,528,818,	0	1⅛

Ways and Means for this year :—	£.	s.	d.
Malt-tax,	700,000	0	0
The land-tax, which was this year reduced to 3s. in the pound,	1,528,568	11	11¾
By Exchequer bills,	1,800,000	0	0
By annuities and lottery,	1,500,000	0	0
From the ſinking fund,	469,147	14	3¼
Ditto,	2,010,121	10	3½
Carried forward,	£. 8,007,837	16	6½

	£.	s.	d.
Brought over,	8,007,837	16	6½
By monies remaining in the Exchequer for the diſpoſition of Parliament, — — — —	35,202	9	2
By monies granted out of certain ſavings, &c. — — —	261,571	13	3¼
From monies iſſued for the relief of officers widows, &c. —	7,844	17	9
From the produce of duties, &c. granted for protecting, ſecuring, &c. the Britiſh colonies, — — — —	110,000	0	0
By monies remaining in the Exchequer, granted in the laſt ſeſſion, towards the militia, — — — —	150,000	0	0
By monies agreed to be paid by his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, on account of French priſoners, &c. — — —	181,000	0	0
Total of ways and means,	8,753,456	16	8¾
Supply granted, —	8,528,818	0	1⅛
Exceſs of proviſions, —	£. 224,638	16	7⅝

☞ The charge of the pay and cloathing of the militia, for one year, beginning the 25th of March, 1767, was ordered to be defrayed out of the monies ariſing by the land-tax, granted for the ſervice of 1767.

Additional duties, &c. for this year:—

An additional duty of 6s. was laid upon every dozen of baſt or ſtraw, chip, cane, and horſe-hair hats and bonnets, which, after the 2d of April, 1767, ſhould be entered inward at any port in this kingdom: alſo an additional duty of 6s. was laid upon every pound weight avoirdupois of the materials of the aforeſaid articles, entered inwards, after the above date.—Theſe additional duties were ordered to be carried to the ſinking fund, towards making good the payments made thereout of the annuities attending the ſum of 1,500,000l.

An additional duty of 3d per ell was laid upon all linen cloth or ſheeting, above one yard Engliſh in width, which ſhould be imported into this kingdom, except from Holland and Flanders: and alſo the ſame per ell, upon all canvas drilling, ſo imported. This exception is, however, only to be underſtood of cloth manufactured in thoſe countries; as all others, though imported from thence, are equally liable to the ſaid duties.—Theſe duties were carried to the ſinking fund, for the purpoſe above-mentioned.

An additional duty of one halfpenny per ell was laid upon all foreign canvas, Dutch barraſs, or Heſſens, imported into this kingdom.

All foreign lawns imported into this kingdom, were ordered to be rated as Sileſia lawns, and pay accordingly: and, over and above the ſaid duty, an additional one of 3d. per yard was laid upon all foreign lawns.

A ſum not exceeding 15,000l. per annum, ariſing from the ſaid duties, was voted to remain in the Exchequer, as a fund for the encouragement of raiſing and dreſſing hemp and flax in this kingdom, in ſuch manner as Parliament ſhould direct; and the remainder of the ſaid duties was ordered to be reſerved in the Exchequer, for the future diſpoſition of Parliament.

There was granted to his Majeſty, upon the poſtage of letters, &c. between Great Britain and the Iſle of Man, for every ſingle letter 2d. a double letter 4d. a treble letter 6d. and for every

1767 every ounce 8d. and ſo in proportion for every packet of deeds, writs, and other things. And for the poſtage, &c. of letters and packets within the ſaid iſland, ſuch rates, in proportion to the number of miles or ſtages, as were eſtabliſhed for the iſland, port, or conveyance of letters and packets in England.—The monies ariſing by theſe rates, were appropriated to ſuch uſes as the preſent rates of poſtage were applicable.

The properties of perſons in any ſhip or cargo, or both, were allowed to be aſſured to the amount of 1000l. by a policy ſtamp of 5s.; and any larger ſum, by a policy with two ſuch ſtamps.

Grey or ſcrow ſalt, ſalt ſcale, ſand ſcale, cruſtings, &c. allowed to be taken from the ſalt-works in England, Wales, or Berwick upon Tweed, to be uſed as manure, upon payment of a duty of 1d per buſhel only.

The duties payable upon *ſuccus liquoritiæ*, imported into this kingdom were repealed: and, in lieu thereof, a duty of 30s. per hundred-weight, was laid upon *ſuccus liquoritiæ* imported.—The ſaid duty to be appropriated to ſuch uſes as the duty to be repealed was made applicable.

A ſubſidy of 6d. in the pound, according to the value ſpecified in the book of rates, referred to in an act of the 12th of Charles II. laid upon the exportation from this kingdom of ſuch rice as ſhould have been exported duty free, by virtue of an act made in this ſeſſion: and the ſaid ſubſidy was reſerved in the Exchequer for the diſpoſition of Parliament.

A duty of 4s. 8d. per hundred-weight avoirdupois, was laid upon all crown, plate, flint, and white glaſs; and 1s. 2d. per hundred-weight avoirdupois, upon all green glaſs imported into the Britiſh colonies, &c. in America.

Such duties as ſhould be equal to a moiety of the duties granted by two acts made in the 10th and 12th of Queen Anne, or of any ſubſequent act, upon paper, paſte-boards, mill-boards, and ſcale-boards, reſpectively, were laid upon theſe articles imported into the ſaid colonies.

A duty of 2s. per hundred-weight avoirdupois, was laid upon all red and white lead, and painters colours, imported into the ſaid colonies.

A duty of 3d. per pound weight avoirdupois, was laid upon all tea imported into the ſaid colonies.—The ſaid duties were to be applied towards making a more adequate proviſion for the charge of adminiſtering juſtice, and the ſupport of civil government, in thoſe colonies where it ſhould be found neceſſary; the reſidue to be paid into the Exchequer, and reſerved for defraying the neceſſary expences of protecting the ſaid colonies.

☞ On the exportation of teas to Ireland, and the Britiſh dominions in America, a drawback was allowed, for a limited time, of all the duties paid thereupon: and the inland duty of 1s. per pound weight, upon all black and ſinglo teas conſumed in Great Britain, was taken off, for a limited time; and ſuch indemnification was agreed to be made by the Eaſt India Company to the public, in lieu of ſuch duties, as we have before ſtated.

The ſeveral other reſolutions were alſo agreed to by the Houſe of Commons, of which the following is the ſubſtance:

Such monies as ſhould be paid into the Exchequer between the 5th of April 1767, and the 5th of April 1768, of the produce of the duties charged by an act made in the 5th of his preſent Majeſty, upon the importation and exportation of gum Senegal and gum Arabic, were applied towards making good the ſupply granted to his Majeſty.

The ſum of 84,604l. 3s. 3d. remaining in the Exchequer, of the two-ſevenths exciſe, granted by an act of the 5th and 6th of William and Mary, after ſatisfying ſeveral incum-

1767 brances, was carried to the aggregate fund; and the ſaid fund was made a ſecurity for the diſcharge of ſuch annuities, &c. payable out of the ſaid ſum.

The act made in the 7th of George II. chap. 18. and which was continued in force, by ſeveral ſubſequent acts until the 29th of September, 1767, and from thence to the end of the then next ſeſſion, being near expiring, was thought fit to be continued.

The allowance by an act of the 29th of George II. upon prompt payment of the ſtamp duties on licences for exciſeable liquors, was reduced to the ſame rate as thoſe of other ſtamp duties.

Upon the exportation, from this kingdom, of coffee and cocoa nuts, the production of the Britiſh colonies in America, a drawback was allowed of the duties payable upon the importation thereof.

Ribbands and ſilks, printed, ſtained, or painted in this kingdom, though leſs than half a yard in breadth, were declared to be within the meaning of certain acts of the 10th and 12th of Queen Anne, and liable to the duties therein mentioned.

The drawbacks payable on China earthen-ware exported to America, were diſcontinued.

Twenty other reſolutions were agreed to by the Houſe of Commons; by the firſt of which, all duties then payable to his Majeſty, upon goods imported into, or exported from the Iſle of Man, were aboliſhed; but by the eighteen next following reſolutions, a great variety of new duties upon ſuch goods were impoſed, which it would be unneceſſary to particularize, except the 20th reſolution, which was as follows:—

"That ſuch bounties as may hereafter become due and payable, under the ſeveral acts which have been made for the encouragement of the Britiſh white-herring fiſhery, be paid by the receiver-general of the cuſtoms, in that part of Great Britain called Scotland, out of any monies remaining in his hands."

A general ſtatement of the public debts, at the receipt of the Exchequer, ſtanding out the 5th day of January, 1767, with the annual intereſt, or other charges payable for the ſame.

	Principal debt.			*Annual Intereſt, &c.*		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
* Exchequer, — —	2,037,381	12	9½	153,422	4	8
Eaſt India Company, — —	4,200,000	0	0	127,687	10	0
Bank of England, — —	97,479,724	12	4¼	3,261,526	14	3½
By remaining annuities of one life each, granted on the lotteries of 1745 and 1746.—Ditto on the 3 per cent. annuities of 1757 and 1761; as alſo on the annuities of 1 per cent. for 98 years, to the ſubſcribers to the loan of 12,000,000l. granted for the ſervice of the year 1762, together with the charges of management to the Bank of England, — — —				335,079	10	3
South Sea Company, — —	27,125,309	13	11½	829,507	8	1½
Total,	130,842,415	19	1¼	4,707,223	7	4

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* The land taxes and duties on malt being annual grants, are not charged in this account, nor the 3,000,000l. charged on the deduction of 6d. per pound on penſions, nor the ſum of 1,800,000l. borrowed in 1766, and charged on the ſupplies of 1764.

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1767

IMPORTS and EXPORTS, from CHRISTMAS 1766, to CHRISTMAS 1767.

Countries.	Imports.			Exports.		
Africa,	£. 55,981	8	6	£. 558,062	5	8
Canaries,	6,061	19	4	38,289	4	5
Denmark and Norway,	75,308	3	10	159,730	16	2
Eaſt Country,	267,085	7	6	150,754	1	10
Eaſt India,	1,981,173	0	1	1,272,654	13	3
Flanders,	268,322	13	1	545,919	14	3
France,	174,089	17	4	232,031	7	4
Germany,	680,963	9	10	1,506,293	10	11
Greenland,	7,900	17	9	—		
Holland,	743,703	8	8	1,539,705	18	0
Ireland,	1,103,285	6	11	1,880,486	13	9
Italy,	630,447	17	6	606,506	5	1
Madeiras	6,211	0	0	34,253	5	6
Portugal,	340,289	13	1	515,080	14	3
Ruſſia,	822,271	14	5	125,208	19	7
Spain,	593,504	19	3	1,144,777	19	8
Streights,	11,375	19	11	69,772	5	4
Sweden,	175,515	7	6	44,336	16	5
Turkey,	99,950	15	10	44,094	19	10
Venice,	57,457	12	7	31,984	3	0
Alderney,	153	13	0	1,242	13	0
Guernſey,	17,898	4	9	36,968	15	6
Jerſey,	18,646	15	8	21,652	0	4
Anguilla,	4,117	13	10	—		
Antigua,	394,727	10	2	119,740	16	6
Barbadoes,	219,682	3	9	145,083	4	4
Bermudas,	1,417	12	5	12,133	9	4
Canada,	42,044	12	5	194,406	3	9
Carolina,	395,027	10	1	244,093	6	0
Dominica,	118,978	19	3	30,863	6	6
Florida,	12,681	6	8	30,963	13	11
Georgia,	35,856	15	7	23,334	14	2
Granades,	243,618	18	3	89,767	19	2
Hudſon's Bay,	9,942	10	11	4,981	18	8
Jamaica,	1,243,742	13	9	467,681	4	4
Martinico,	572	0	8	—		
Montſerrat,	54,960	9	9	23,071	9	3
Nevis,	60,690	14	7	11,875	18	8
New England,	128,207	17	4	406,081	9	2
Newfoundland,	48,950	18	6	53,550	10	7
New Providence,	4,487	3	0	14,986	0	3
New York,	61,422	18	7	417,957	15	5
Nova Scotia,	753	4	5	25,094	10	1
Pennſylvania,	37,641	17	0	371,830	8	10
St. Chriſtopher's,	276,013	9	9	106,162	8	7
St. Croix,	10,584	1	2	882	7	2
St. Euſtatia,	2,740	7	8	—		
St. John's Iſland,	178	12	8	1,942	0	8
St. Lucia,	629	13	9	—		
St. Vincent,	24,282	7	1	14,822	2	0
Tortola,	48,864	8	4	27,010	1	4
Virginia and Maryland,	437,926	15	0	437,628	2	6
Spaniſh Weſt Indies,	15,611	8	3	7,995	4	5
Weſt Indies in general,	—			763	13	0
Totals,	12,073,956	0	11	13,844,511	1	8
Exports exceed the Imports,	1,770,555	0	9			

A. D.

1767 The chriſtenings and burials within the bills of mortality in London were, this year, as follows:

Chriſtened, males	8,211	Buried, males	11,306
——— females	7,769	—— females	11,306
	15,980		22,612

Bills of births and burials in different parts of England and Europe.

Paris,—born, 19,749; deaths, 19,875.

Amſterdam,—births, 4,908; deaths, 6999.

Copenhagen,—births, 2,957; deaths, 3,361; marriages, 909.

In the dutchy of Schleſwig the births were 6,971; and the deaths 6,384.

In the dutchy of Holſtein the births were 4,771; and the deaths 3,736.

Turin,—births, 2,956; deaths, 5,980.

Brunſwick,—births, 1,241; deaths, 1,022.

Durham,—births, 149; deaths, 155; marriages, 65.

Whitby,—births, 298; deaths, 177; marriages, 55.

Cheſter,—births, 351; deaths, 367; marriages, 143.

According to a calculation made in 1760, and lately publiſhed at Stockholm, there were in the kingdom of Sweden 1,127,938 men and boys, and 1,255,175 women and girls,—in all, 2,313,123 perſons.—The number of noblemen were 10,045.—The clergy, with the ſchools and colleges, amounted to 4,488, or, including their wives and children, 18,197; and the number of thoſe who had a right of freedom in the cities and towns, were 162,888. It appeared, that there had been an increaſe of 2,773 inhabitants, ſince the year 1758.

1768 In the recommencement of a regular oppoſition to Great Britain, which had taken place during the laſt year, the aſſembly of Maſſachuſets openly took the lead, by ſending a circular letter to every colony, inviting them all to join in a communication and harmony of ſentiments, and in aſſerting the injuſtice of the Britiſh Miniſtry to the American colonies.

One of the moſt unfortunate circumſtances which could attend theſe unhappy altercations, was the enmity which had for ſome time ſubſiſted, and did then ſubſiſt, between the aſſembly of Maſſachuſet's and its governor. He was a man of conſiderable abilities, but was regarded as a ſworn champion of the royal prerogative. In conſequence of this opinion, he met with obſtructions in every thing he undertook; and the party violence with which he had to contend, was animated with as much inveteracy againſt his perſon, as with hatred to the meaſures which he thought it his duty to ſupport. The conſequences of this diſſention were very injurious to the parties intereſted in the great queſtions then in agitation. To this mutual ill will of the Governor and the Houſe of Repreſentatives, may be imputed a great increaſe of that violent altercation, which now ſubſiſted between Great Britain and America.

The new acts of the Britiſh Legiſlature, renewed and afforded freſh materials for the ill-humour which ſubſiſted between this colony and Governor Bernard. Indeed all idea of moderation ſeems, at this time, to have been loſt, in the violence with which the aſſembly manifeſted their oppoſition to him; and as the colonies had greatly exaſperated the Britiſh Miniſtry by their obſtinate conduct, the Governor was inſtructed to act with vigour and reſolution.

A letter alſo, which he had officially received from the Earl of Shelburne, one of the Secretaries of State, containing very ſevere animadverſions on the conduct of the Aſſembly, encreaſed ed the ſpirit of diſcontent to ſuch a degree, that the Governor, finding it a vain taſk to ſoften, by any proper means, the refractory diſpoſition of the Aſſembly, thought proper to adjourn it.

In the midſt of theſe diſtractions in America, a new eſtabliſhment was made at home, by which a Secretary of State was appointed to the ſole department of the colonies. Much good was expected to reſult from an arrangement, which had been left as a kind of legacy to his country by the late Mr. Charles Townſhend, whoſe death was, at this time, and with great reaſon, conſidered as a national misfortune. Lord Hillſborough was the firſt American Secretary, and one of the earlieſt acts of this new created office, was a circular letter to the governors of all the colonies, who had before received the circular letters from the Maſſachuſet's Aſſembly, in order to expreſs his Majeſty's diſapprobation of a meaſure, which was conſidered by the royal mind as tending to excite an open oppoſition to, and denial of the authority of Parliament, and to ſubvert the true principles of the conſtitution.

A letter was alſo written from the ſame Miniſter to Governor Barnard, with an order to make a requiſition to the Aſſembly of Maſſachuſet, in his Majeſty's name, to reſcind the reſolution which gave birth to their circular letter, and to declare their diſapprobation of ſuch a raſh and haſty proceeding.

But, whatever hopes were entertained, at this period, of an approaching reconciliation, from the meaſures we have juſt related, they ſoon vaniſhed in the refuſal of the Aſſembly to reſcind the reſolutions of the former Houſe, which actually confirmed them by a diviſion of ninety-two to ſeventeen voices.

The other aſſemblies of the American continent, now followed the example of that we have juſt deſcribed. They treated the circular letters written to each of them by the Secretary of State, exactly in the ſame manner; and, in their anſwer to him, juſtified the conduct of the Aſſembly at Boſton in a language ſimilar to that which it had uſed to juſtify itſelf, nor were they backward in holding forth the ſame explicit condemnation of the late meaſures of the Britiſh government.

To prove alſo the decided ſpirit with which they acted, they renewed their former combinations againſt the uſe and importation of Engliſh goods, except ſuch as were of the moſt indiſpenſable neceſſity, and reſolved that ſuch agreements ſhould remain in full force till the late acts of the Britiſh Parliament were entirely repealed.

In the month of June a great tumult alſo happened at Boſton, in conſequence of a ſeizure made by the Board of Cuſtoms of a ſloop belonging to one of the principal merchants of that town. It appeared, that this ſloop was diſcharged of a cargo of wine, and in part re-laden with a quantity of oil, without any great attention having been paid to the new laws or the Cuſtom-houſe regulations. Immediately on the ſeizure, the officers made a ſignal to the Romney man of war, and her boats were ſent manned and armed, to cut away the ſloop's faſtenings and convey her under the protection of that ſhip. In conſequence of this, the populace ſoon aſſembled, and not only treated the commiſſioners of the cuſtoms with every perſonal indignity, but attacked their houſes, broke their windows, and having hauled the Collector's boat aſhore, burned it to aſhes. The officers of the cuſtoms, alarmed for the ſafety of their lives, retired on board the man of war, from whence they removed to Caſtle William, a fortification on a ſmall iſland in the harbour, where they reſumed the functions of their office.

In ſhort, the temper and conduct of the people became every day more licentious. An account from England, that the petition which the Aſſembly had tranſmitted to its agent, had not been preſented, becauſe ſuch agent had been appointed by the Aſſembly without the conſent

A. D. 1768 ſent of the Governor, tending, in no ſmall degree, to encreaſe the public diſcontents; and the diſſolution of the General Aſſembly, added another combuſtible to the flame. Indeed, ſuch was the growing ſpirit of ſedition among all claſſes of people, that government thought it neceſſary to convince the colonies, that it would no longer ſubmit to thoſe indignities with which its authority was daily inſulted. For this purpoſe, therefore, troops were ordered to repair to Boſton in ſufficient numbers to intimidate the refractory and to ſupport the well-affected.

On receiving this intelligence, the inhabitants of Boſton petitioned the Governor to call a General Aſſembly, which he informed them it was not in his power to do, till he had his Majeſty's permiſſion for that purpoſe, according to inſtructions he had received from England. On this refuſal of the Governor, they called an Aſſembly, and gave it the title of a Convention.

Among other meaſures of this meeting, which were hoſtile to the power of Government, the moſt remarkable was a requiſition to the inhabitants, to put themſelves in a poſture of defence againſt any ſudden attack of an enemy. This requeſt was founded on an apprehenſion, as it was then ſtated, of an approaching rupture with France. The intention of this meaſure, which was the boldeſt that the colonies had yet taken, was too obvious not to be generally underſtood; and it required no uncommon ſagacity to diſcover the final aim of thoſe who had fomented, with ſo much zeal, the diſtractions and diſcontents which now prevailed throughout the American colonies.

The firſt meaſure of the Convention was to addreſs the Governor, diſclaiming all pretence to any other power than that of adviſing among themſelves on the alarming ſituation of their affairs, and to entreat him to convoke a General Aſſembly, as the moſt conſtitutional remedy for thoſe evils with which the province was threatened. But the Governor remained inflexible; and he accompanied the denial of their requeſt with the moſt ſerious admonitions to reflect on the nature, and what might be the conſequence, of their conduct. The Convention, therefore, after ſending a juſtificatory meſſage to the Governor, which he refuſed to receive, appointed a committee to draw up a report of their proceedings, the motives which produced them, and a ſtatement of their grievances; which report being approved, and ordered to be tranſmitted to their agent in London, to counteract the unfavourable impreſſions which the violence of their late proceedings might have occaſioned, the meeting was diſſolved.

The very day on which the convention broke up, was remarkable for the arrival of ſeveral frigates and ſloops of war from Hallifax, and ſome tranſports with two regiments and a detachment of artillery on board, in the harbour of Boſton. Some difficulties at firſt took place, relative to the quartering of the troops, and objections were made to their admiſſion into the town, as no barracks had been prepared for their reception. But this obſtruction was ſoon removed, by fitting up certain houſes which were to be reputed barracks, and the council conſented to allow the barrack proviſions uſually furniſhed by the colony. General Gage arrived ſoon after, as did two regiments from Ireland; and the late ſpirit of turbulence and outrage began to give way to an appearance of moderation and tranquillity.

From the voluminous miſcellany of public writings, which the colony tranſactions of the preſent year produced, we ſhall only ſelect the following agreements entered into by the inhabitants of Boſton and New York.

"The merchants and traders in the town of Boſton, having taken into conſideration the deplorable ſituation of the trade, and the many difficulties it at preſent labours under, on account of the ſcarcity of money, which is daily increaſing for want of the other remittances to

A. D. 1768 diſcharge our debts in Great Britain, and the large ſums collected by the officers of the Cuſtoms for duties on goods imported; the heavy taxes levied to diſcharge the debts contracted by the Government in the late war; the embarraſſments and reſtrictions laid on the trade by the ſeveral late acts of Parliament; together with the bad ſucceſs of our cod fiſhery this ſeaſon, and the diſcouraging proſpect of the whale fiſhery, by which our principal ſources of remittances are like to be greatly diminiſhed, and we, thereby, rendered unable to pay the debts we owe the merchants in Great Britain, and to continue the importation of goods from thence.

"We, the ſubſcribers, in order to relieve the trade, under thoſe diſcouragements, to promote induſtry, frugality, and economy, and to diſcourage luxury, and every kind of extravagance, do promiſe and engage to and with each other as follows:

"Firſt, That we will not ſend for or import from Great Britain, either upon our own account, or upon commiſſion, this fall, any other goods than what are already ordered for the fall ſupply.

"Secondly, That we will not ſend for or import any kind of goods or merchandize from Great Britain, either on our own account, or on commiſſions, or any otherwiſe, from January 1, 1769, to January 1, 1770, except ſalt, coals, fiſh-hooks and lines, hamp and duck bar lead and ſhot, wool cards and wool wire.

"Thirdly, That we will not purchaſe of any factor or others, any kind of goods imported from Great Britain from January 1769, to January 1770.

"Fourthly, That we will not import, on our own account, or on commiſſions, or purchaſe of any who ſhall import from any other colony in America, from January 1769 to January 1770, any tea, glaſs, paper, or other goods, commonly imported from Great Britain.

"Fifthly, That we will not, from and after the firſt of January 1769, import into this province any tea, paper, glaſs, or painter's colours, until the act impoſing duties on thoſe articles ſhall be repealed.

"In witneſs whereof, &c."——Dated Auguſt 1, 1768.

On the 15th of September following, the inhabitants of New York, incited, according to their own declaration, by the example of thoſe of Boſton, entered into a ſimilar agreement for the non-uſe and non-importation of Britiſh produce and manufactures.

The affairs of the Eaſt India Company were now become an object of annual conſideration, and as ſuch, will continue to claim our particular attention.

Though the agreement which the Company had entered into with Government was to continue another year, yet as the act which reſtrained their dividends to ten per cent. was now expired, a bill was brought into Parliament to reſtrain them, in the ſame manner, for the enſuing year.

The Company, greatly alarmed at the apparent perſeverance in a meaſure, which they apprehended ſo totally ſubverſive of their rights, preſented a ſtrong petition againſt it. In this they ſhewed the right they poſſeſſed, by their charter, to declare their own dividends; that the regulations already eſtabliſhed by the Legiſlature would be, at all times, ſufficient to prevent an improvident uſe being made of ſuch powers; and aſſured the Houſe, that they would make no increaſe of their dividends, unleſs the ſituation of their affairs ſhould afford ample conviction, that, in juſtice and prudence, they ſhould be warranted in ſo doing.

This meaſure occaſioned very animated debates in the Houſe of Commons, when all the arguments of the preceding year were reiterated, and the ſecond reſtraining bill carried by a

great

1768 great majority: it met, however, like the former, with a powerful oppoſition in the Houſe of Peers, and a very energetic proteſt, ſigned by ſeveral Lords, was entered againſt it.

On July 7, a ballot ended at the India Houſe on the following queſtion: "That orders be ſent to the Governor and Council of Bengal, for the immediate payment, out of the revenues of Bengal, Bahar, and Orixa, of what remains unpaid of the reſtitution money of Meer Jaffier, to the ſeveral perſons to whom it is due, according to their claims, as admitted by the committee formerly appointed for that purpoſe, whether ſuch claims are found to ariſe from loſſes in trade, of ſalt, beetle nut, or tobacco, or not."

The numbers for the queſtion were 115.——Againſt it, 223.

The Court of Directors of the Eaſt India Company, at a meeting held on the 29th of the ſame month, came to the following reſolution.

Reſolved, "As the moſt effectual method to prevent the ſale of the command of ſhips in the company's ſervice, that from and after the 25th of March following, upon the death of a commander of any ſhip employed or to be employed in the company's ſervice, or whenever there ſhould be a vacancy of a commander, by reſignation, incapacity, or otherwiſe, another commander ſhall be choſen by the Court of Directors, to ſupply ſuch vacancy, out of perſons who have commanded a ſhip in the company's ſervice, or who have performed, at leaſt, one voyage in the capacity of chief or ſecond mate to the Eaſt Indies; and that ſuch choice or appointment ſhall be made by ballot.

"And that, from and after the ſaid 25th of March, no ſhip be tendered for the company's ſervice, but ſubject to the ſaid regulation; and that no ſhip ſhall be built in the room of any ſhip worn out or loſt in the company's ſervice, without the leave of the Court of Directors, &c."

A very popular bill for limiting the duration of its Parliaments, and making them elective once in eight years, paſſed this winter in Ireland, and received the royal aſſent. Before this period, the Iriſh Parliament was determinable only by the King's life.

On the 12th of March the Parliament of Great Britain was diſſolved, and on the 10th of May the Parliament met; and, after renewing the proviſion bills, which was the principal object of its being aſſembled at this time, it was adjourned on the 21ſt of the ſame month, and afterwards prorogued.

To relieve, in ſome degree, the growing diſtreſſes of certain manufactures, his Majeſty was pleaſed to order, that the court mournings ſhould not, for the future, continue longer than one half of the time which had been uſually obſerved. This order was iſſued officially from the Lord Chamberlain's office, and was dated the 12th of January in this year. This act of conſiderate goodneſs in his Majeſty, was followed by an addreſs from the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and a great number of conſiderable manufacturers and traders of the cities of London and Weſtminſter; the wardens, aſſiſtants, &c. of the art and myſtery of weaving, alſo preſented their particular and moſt grateful acknowledgments to the Throne, on an occaſion in which they were ſo deeply intereſted.

The quantity of rice imported from Charleſtown, from November 1, 1767, to September 23, in the preſent year, was 111,203 barrels.

The connection which ſubſiſts between commerce and the fine arts, calls upon us to notice the eſtabliſhment of a royal academy for the encouragement of the latter. Towards the cloſe of this year, his Majeſty, ever ready to encourage uſeful improvements, and always intent upon promoting every branch of polite knowledge, was graciouſly pleaſed to inſtitute, in the

A. D. 1768 metropolis of his kingdom, a Royal Academy of Arts, to be under his own immediate patronage, and the direction of forty artiſts of the firſt rank in their ſeveral profeſſions.

The following treaty was concluded in this year, between the French King and the republic of Genoa, for the ceſſion of the iſland of Corſica.

" I. The republic of Genoa cedes the kingdom of Corſica, together with its fortreſſes, to France, the latter paying in money for the artillery and warlike ſtores, according to a valuation which ſhall be made of them.

" II. The ſovereignty of that iſland ſhall always remain veſted in the republic.

" III. Every perſon ſhall be preſerved in his effects, on proving the right he has to them.

" IV. The Corſicans ſhall be deemed ſubjects of France ſo long as the latter continues in poſſeſſion of that iſle.

" V. France ſhall be obliged to maintain there ſixteen battalions.

" VI. France ſhall guarantee the Genoeſe commerce againſt the Corſican or Barbary cruiſers.

" VII. In caſe the republic ſhould be deſirous of reſuming again the poſſeſſion of that kingdom, it ſhall repay to France all the charges that crown ſhall have been at by that time; for which purpoſe an exact account ſhall be kept of all that the latter ſhall have advanced, and likewiſe of the revenues it ſhall have collected.

" VIII. The King ſhall beſtow in property on the republic, the ſovereignty of the iſle of Capreæ."

This treaty contains beſides three ſecret articles.

The French King alſo publiſhed a declaration, dated Auguſt 8, 1788, to his people of Corſica, (for ſo he might literally ſtile them,) in which he promiſes to inſure them all the advantages of the French government.

It might have been apprehended, that this treaty would be conſidered as an infraction of that of Aix-la-Chapelle, by which it had been provided, that no change ſhould be made in the ſtate of Italy. Nevertheleſs, it was permitted to take place without any interruption from the powers apparently intereſted in it.

The Houſe of Auſtria was, perhaps, too much engaged in the diſturbances of Poland and the war then breaking out between Turkey and Ruſſia, to attend to this event; and the King of Sardinia did not actively interfere, becauſe he could not obtain that ſupport which would have alone put him in a capacity to have done it with effect. While, at this moment, the councils of Great Britain were ſo occupied with domeſtic broils and internal diſtractions, that this ſtride of Gallic power was ſubmitted to with acquieſcence rather than oppoſition.

The iſland of Corſica was of very little conſequence while it was poſſeſſed by the republic of Genoa; and if it had, by its ſtruggles, acquired independence, it could have been no object of jealouſy or danger to any other power: but as an acquiſition to France, though it does not appear to have then anſwered any political purpoſe to that crown, it was conſidered by the politicians of the day, as pregnant with much future inconvenience to the different European powers, who were concerned in the commerce of the Mediterranean ſea.

In the courſe of this year, 4,173 ſhips were cleared from the port of Newcaſtle, being 453 more than in the preceding one, of which 3,718 were coaſtways, and 445 to foreign places.

The Dutch ſent out this year on the whale fiſhery, 124 ſhips.

The number of veſſels which entered the Texel, were 1,602.

A. D. 1768 The number of veſſels which arrived at Koningſberg, in Pruſſia, during the ſame period, were 763.

Ditto at Dantzick, 1,190.

The following bills, among many others, received the royal aſſent during the courſe of this year.

To continue and amend an act for allowing the free importation of ſalted beef, pork, bacon and butter, from Ireland, for a limited time; and for allowing the free importation of the ſame articles from the Britiſh dominions in America.

For further regulating the proceedings of the Eaſt India Company with reſpect to making dividends.

For more effectually ſupplying the town of Hallifax with water, &c.

For making, &c. a navigable cut or canal from Birmingham to Bilſton, and for making collateral cuts and waggon ways from ſeveral coal mines; and for continuing the ſaid canal to Autherly, there to communicate with the canal now making between the rivers Trent and Severn.

To amend an act for the better regulating journeyman taylors within the bills of mortality.

To continue ſeveral acts for better encouraging the whale fiſhery.

For the more eaſy and effectual recovery of the penalties and forfeitures inflicted by acts relating to the trade and revenue of the Britiſh colonies in America.

For making a navigable canal from the river Forth, at or near the mouth of the river Carron, in the county of Stirling, to the river Clyde, to a place called Dalmair Burnfoot, in the county of Dunbarton, and a collateral cut to Glaſgow.

To permit the exportation of certain quantities of malt, now lying in his Majeſty's warehouſes.

For further continuing the laws then in force, relating to the exportation and importation of corn, for a limited time, &c.

For allowing a further time for the free importation of rice from North America.

For the more effectually preventing the clandeſtine importation of foreign ſpirits, and for explaining an act which relates to penalties inflicted upon perſons ſelling ale, beer, or other exciſeable liquors by retail, without licence, &c.

For repairing, improving, and preſerving the harbour and quay of Wells in Norfolk.

SUPPLIES granted by Parliament for the year 1768.	£.	s.	d.
For 16,000 ſeamen, including 4,287 marines, —	832,000	0	7
For the ordinary of the navy, &c. — —	416,403	0	11
For 17,253 land forces, including 2,460 invalids, &c. —	606,221	12	$10\frac{7}{8}$
For maintaining his Majeſty's forces and garriſons in the Plantations, Africa, Gibraltar, &c. — — —	396,590	4	$6\frac{7}{8}$
For the difference of pay between the Britiſh and Iriſh eſtabliſhments of ſix regiments of foot, &c. — — —	7,226	17	$2\frac{1}{2}$
General and ſtaff officers in Great Britain, — —	12,237	7	3
For the full pay of certain reduced officers, &c. —	5,227	14	0
Carried over,	2,275,906	17	$5\frac{1}{4}$

	£.	s.	d.
Brought over,	2,275,906	17	5¼
For the office of ordnance for the land ſervice,	159,328	11	6
For ſervices of the office of ordnance for land ſervice, not provided for by Parliament,	68,944	12	11
To enable his Majeſty to pay off one third part of the capital ſtock of annuities at four per cent. eſtabliſhed by an act of the third of his Majeſty, &c.	875,000	0	0
Towards building and repairs of ſhips, &c.	277,954	0	0
To the truſtees of the Britiſh Muſeum,	2,000	0	0
To the penſions of officers widows, &c.	1,536	0	0
On account of reduced officers and marines,	132,431	0	0
For allowances to ſeveral officers, &c. of the two reduced troops of horſe guards, &c.	1,715	13	0
For out-penſioners of Chelſea Hoſpital,	108,949	17	9
For extraordinaries of the army, not provided for by Parliament,	199,988	4	2
On account of the civil eſtabliſhment of Nova Scotia,	3,895	1	11
Ditto of Georgia,	3,986	0	0
Ditto of Eaſt Florida,	4,750	0	0
Ditto of Weſt Florida,	4,400	0	0
On account of ſurveys in North America,	2,036	14	0
On account of the civil eſtabliſhment of Senegambia,	5,550	0	0
For diſcharging certain Exchequer bills,	1,800,000	0	0
To replace to the ſinking fund the like ſum iſſued thereout to make good certain deficiencies, &c.	59,322	16	10
To replace to ditto for ditto,	53,480	17	8¾
To the committee of the African Company, to be employed in maintaining forts and ſettlements on the coaſt of Africa,	13,000	0	0
For the Foundling Hoſpital, &c.	29,000	0	0
To ditto for apprenticing children, &c.	2,000	0	0
To make good to his Majeſty the like ſum iſſued by his Majeſty's orders, in purſuance of the addreſſes of the Houſe of Commons,	10,500	0	0
For deficiencies of grants for the ſervice of 1767,	392,484	4	5⅜
To replace to the ſinking fund the like ſum paid out of the ſame, eſtabliſhed by an act of the third of George III. in reſpect of certain navy, victualling and tranſport bills, and debentures, &c.	88,435	19	6½
To replace to ditto the like ſum iſſued thereout, for a certain payment of annuities eſtabliſhed by an act of the third of George III. for granting additional duties on cyder and perry, &c.	8,750	0	0
To redeem and pay off the remaining parts of the ſaid capital ſtock of annuities,	1,750,000	0	0
Total,	8,335,746	11	2⅞

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The WAYS and MEANS for raiſing the foregoing ſupplies.

	£.	s.	d.
The malt tax,	700,000	0	0
The land ditto,	1,528,568	11	11¾
By certain annuities,	1,300,000	0	0
By a lottery,	600,000	0	0
By Exchequer bills,	1,800,000	0	0
From the ſinking fund,	2,250,000	0	0
By certain ſurpluſſes,	70,000	0	0
By agreement with the Eaſt India Company,	400,000	0	0
From certain exceſſes and balances,	106,358	17	8
Total of ways and means provided, &c.	8,754,927	9	7¾
Ditto of ſupplies granted, &c.	8,335,746	11	2⅞
Exceſs of proviſions,	419,180	18	4⅞

☞ The charge of the pay and cloathing of the militia in England for one year, beginning March 25, 1768, was voted to be defrayed out of the monies ariſing by the land tax, granted for the ſervice of the year 1768.

A general ſtatement of the public debts at the receipt of the Exchequer, ſtanding out January 5, 1768, with the annual intereſt, &c.

	Principal Debt. £.	s.	d.	*Annual Intereſt,* &c. £.	s.	d.
* Exchequer,	2,036,681	12	9½	153,338	4	8
Eaſt India Company,	4,200,000	0	0	127,687	10	0
Bank of England,	96,362,945	1	5¼	3,202,031	1	10½
By remaining annuities of one life each, granted on the lotteries of 1745 and 1746.—Ditto on the 3 per cent. annuities of 1757 and 1761; as alſo on the annuities of 1 per cent. for 98 years to the ſubſcribers to the loan of 12,000,000l. granted for the ſervice of the year 1762, together with the charges of management to the Bank of England,				333,433	2	9
South Sea Company,	27,125,309	13	11½	829,507	8	1½
Total,	129,724,936	8	2¼	4,645,997	7	5

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* The land taxes and duties on malt being annual grants, are not charged in this account, nor the 1,000,000l. charged on the deduction of 6d. per pound on penſions, nor the 1,800,000l. borrowed in 1767, charged on the ſupplies in 1768.

The

A. D. 1768 The following additional duties and reſolutions were agreed to, in this year, by the Houſe of Commons.

February 23.—Grew or crow ſalt, ſalt ſcale, ſand ſcale, cruſtings, or other foul ſalt, was allowed to be taken from the ſalt works in England, Wales, or Berwick upon Tweed, to be ſold as manure, upon payment of a duty of 4d. per buſhel only.

All policies, by which the property of one perſon, or of a particular number of perſons in one general partnerſhip, or of one body politic or corporate, in any ſhip, or cargo, or both, ſhould be aſſured to the amount of more than 1000l. was voted to be ſtamped with two five ſhilling ſtamps.

So much of an act, made in the thirty-third year of George III. entitled, " An Act for encouraging the Exportation of Rum and Spirits, of the Growth, Produce, and Manufacture of the British Sugar Plantations from this Kingdom, and of Britiſh Spirits made from Melaſſes," as directs that the rum, or ſpirits, of the growth, produce, and manufactures of the Britiſh ſugar plantations in America, which ſhould be entitled to the allowance of the duty of cuſtom, and freed from the duty of exciſe, on exportation thereof, ſhould be proof ſpirits, was repealed: and upon the exportation of ſuch rum, or ſpirits, there was an allowance or drawback, of all the duties of cuſtoms payable upon the importation thereof; and ſuch rum, or ſpirits, were freed and diſcharged from all duties of exciſe, though the ſame ſhould not be proof ſpirits.

A general account of the chriſtenings and burials within the bills of mortality in London, from December 15, 1767, to December 13, 1768.

CHRISTENED.		BURIED.	
Males,	8,321	Males,	12,134
Females,	7,721	Females,	11,505
Total,	16,042	Total,	23,639

Bills of births, burials, &c. in different parts of Great Britain and Europe, for the year 1768.

Paris,—born, 17,578; deaths, 20,808; foundlings received, 6,025.
Amſterdam,—born, 4,741; deaths, 9,656.
Turin,—born, 2,962; deaths, 3,167.
Koningſberg,—births, 2,152; deaths, 1,763.
Dantzic,—births, 1,913; deaths, 2,188.
Mancheſter and Selford,—births, 960; deaths, 867; marriages, 399.
Darlington,——births, 135; deaths, 194; marriages, 34.
City and ſuburbs of York,——births, 410; deaths, 505; marriages, 179.
Norwich,——births, 1,049; deaths, 1,136.
Newcaſtle and Gateſhead,——births, 741; deaths, 773.
Sunderland,——births, 249; deaths, 403; marriages, 91.
Whitby,——births, 226; deaths, 203; marriages, 51.
Cheſter,——births, 380; deaths, 422; marriages, 135.
Liverpool,——births, 1,057; deaths, 1,073; marriages, 483.

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IMPORTS and EXPORTS, from CHRISTMAS 1767, to CHRISTMAS 1768.

Countries.	*Imports.*			*Exports.*		
Africa,	£. 67,249	1	4	£. 612,392	9	8
Canaries,	4,785	5	5	39,840	19	5
Denmark and Norway,	79,043	15	5	178,041	7	10
Eaſt Country,	318,840	13	4	124,121	5	3
Eaſt India,	1,507,963	0	2	1,156,082	16	8
Flanders,	118,595	16	5	608,258	9	1
France,	133,100	7	3	271,828	15	7
Germany,	689,562	17	9	1,499,732	0	4
Greenland,	12,483	15	6	63	12	0
Holland,	455,814	4	9	1,744,974	5	8
Ireland,	1,226,094	0	3	2,248,315	6	5
Italy,	673,915	11	5	781,350	11	11
Madeiras	3,864	16	8	25,588	6	3
Portugal,	391,502	3	8	711,908	4	4
Ruſſia,	934,817	13	6	126,569	14	4
Spain,	472,045	2	6	1,076,005	7	10
Streights,	12,212	18	6	91,005	18	2
Sweden,	204,278	17	2	56,352	19	7
Turkey,	103,679	19	4	109,194	7	8
Venice,	78,209	6	4	41,294	17	8
Alderney,	134	15	0	662	8	6
Guernſey,	21,850	3	4	29,031	7	6
Jerſey,	14,302	9	8	17,762	5	9
Anguilla,	6,607	12	1	—	—	—
Antigua,	330,013	9	4	132,139	9	6
Barbadoes,	281,461	3	8	191,601	17	7
Bermudas,	829	8	0	10,526	9	11
Canada,	37,162	6	4	110,598	12	5
Carolina,	508,108	6	10	289,868	12	3
Dominica,	203,828	14	8	18,411	3	1
Florida,	14,078	6	3	32,572	0	7
Georgia,	42,402	13	10	56,562	13	5
Granades,	376,940	12	2	120,419	18	2
Hudſon's Bay,	8,008	7	6	5,500	13	9
Jamaica,	1,215,628	19	9	473,146	13	3
Montſerrat,	69,563	11	3	25,572	5	10
Nevis,	71,144	17	10	15,874	0	3
New England,	148,375	3	6	419,797	9	4
Newfoundland,	48,357	0	6	46,761	2	1
New Providence,	2,523	6	4	6,752	13	9
New York,	87,115	5	10	482,930	14	4
Nova Scotia,	1,247	2	6	19,571	12	10
Pennſylvania,	59,406	8	5	432,107	17	4
St. Chriſtopher's,	301,328	15	6	143,739	0	7
St. Croix,	12,383	19	4	6,387	4	4
St. Lucia,	891	3	0	—	—	—
St. Thomas,	19	5	0	—	—	—
St. Vincent,	35,762	6	8	24,553	13	4
Tobago,	—	—	—	485	0	2
Tortola,	50,443	19	10	17,746	0	9
Virginia and Maryland,	406,048	13	11	475,954	6	2
Spaniſh Weſt Indies,	34,633	8	1	4,694	18	0
Weſt Indies in general,	—	—	—	3,328	15	8
Totals,	11,878,661	2	7	15,117,982	16	1
Exports exceed the Imports,	3,239,321	13	6			

The

A. D. 1769 The critical ſtate of our American colonies, had been mentioned in a very particular manner from the Throne at the opening of this ſeſſion of Parliament, in the preceding month of November; and, on this account, as well as the great importance of the ſubject, it was, of courſe, conſidered as the principal object of parliamentary attention. Indeed, the public looked with much ſolicitude to the operations of this ſeſſion; when it was hoped, that an effectual remedy would be found for the growing diſcontents on the other ſide of the Atlantic ocean. The heavy cenſures paſſed in his Majeſty's ſpeech on the conduct of one of the American colonies, could not but increaſe the general expectation on the iſſue of a buſineſs in which the whole Britiſh empire was ſo deeply intereſted: they were alſo the previous tokens of the new ſyſtem which appeared to have been formed, at this time, in regard to America, and the determination which the Britiſh government had made to change the lenity and forbearance hitherto exerciſed, into ſeverity and compulſion.

A committee of the whole Houſe of Commons had been formed early in the ſeſſion, for the purpoſe of an enquiry into American affairs, and many and long debates took place on the intereſting ſubjects which naturally aroſe in the courſe of ſuch an important inveſtigation. At length, however, an addreſs was preſented to the King by both Houſes, wherein they paſſed the ſevereſt cenſures on the conduct of the Aſſembly of Maſſachuſets, and declared its reſolutions, which tended to call in queſtion the authority of the ſupreme legiſlature to make laws to bind the colonies in all caſes whatſoever, to be illegal, unconſtitutional, and derogatory from the Crown and Parliament of Great Britain. The circular letter alſo, which that aſſembly had written to the other colonies, inviting them to join in a common petition againſt thoſe claims, was condemned as illegal, unconſtitutional, and unwarrantable in a people who acknowledged themſelves ſubject to the crown of Great Britain. It was no leſs reprobated as injurious to the Britiſh nation, and evidently calculated to ſpread diſcontent and create factions hoſtile to the parent ſtate, and directly ſubverſive of its ſovereignty over the colonies.

The town of Boſton, in particular, was repreſented, by this addreſs, as the ſeat of lawleſs tumult, in which no reſpect was paid to the civil government, and where the officers of his Majeſty's revenues were not only obſtructed in the execution of their duty, but had been in manifeſt danger of loſing their lives on attempting to execute it. It was therefore urged, that the executive power ought to interpoſe, in order to effect that by force, which lenity had not, hitherto, been able to produce.

In ſhort, after condemning, in the moſt unreſerved manner, the whole conduct of the people of Boſton, the addreſs expreſſed a moſt hearty concurrence in the meaſures that had been taken to reduce that town and province to the obedience due to Great Britain. It promiſed a firm ſupport of all the meaſures neceſſary for that end, and concluded by adviſing, that an exemplary puniſhment ſhould be inflicted on the authors of the late diſorders. For this purpoſe it was requeſted, that George Barnard might be directed to tranſmit the fulleſt information he could obtain, of all treaſons or miſpriſion of treaſon committed within his government, ſince December 30, 1767, &c. that his Majeſty might iſſue a ſpecial commiſſion for enquiring into and determining upon the guilt of the offenders within this realm, according to a ſtatute of Henry VIII. in caſe his Majeſty, on the Governor's report, ſhould ſee ſufficient ground for ſuch proceeding.

This conduct of adminiſtration was violently and ably oppoſed: but whether the Americans were right or wrong, was no longer a queſtion. An idea was now adopted, that the dignity of the ſtate muſt, at all hazards, be ſupported. This was indeed an argument of no ſmall

weight;

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1769 weight; but the occaſion on which a nation's honour is to be aſſerted demanded an equal ſhare of conſideration. However, the Miniſtry of that period, were of opinion that the circumſtances of the moment juſtified the meaſures they had adopted, and intended to purſue, to ſuſtain the honour of government, and that they ſhould prove themſelves enemies to the national character, if they did not inſiſt on a direct and explicit acknowledgment of the ſovereignty of Great Britain from the American colonies.

As the agreement which the Eaſt India Company had entered into with Government, as well as the act for reſtraining their dividends were now near expiring, the company thought it a proper time, before another reſtraining bill was brought in, to make propoſals to the Miniſtry, for the baſis of a new agreement; to obtain, if poſſible, more equitable conditions, and to ſettle their affairs upon a more permanent foundation. A long negotiation, therefore, was entered into upon this ſubject, and many propoſals made and refuſed.

The great point which the company had in view, was to obtain ſome return or compenſation for the great ſum of money which they annually paid to government. For this purpoſe, among ſeveral other propoſals, a prolongation of their charter for five years was required, and conſidered as a moderate equivalent; it was, however, abſolutely refuſed.

The obtaining money from the company, was now become a part of the ſyſtem of government; and was conſidered almoſt as a part of the current ſervice. The interference in their affairs, by reſtricting their dividends, demonſtrated to that body, that they were in the hands of a power which they were unable to reſiſt. They could not indeed but perceive, that it was too late to make conditions, and that even a ſmall relaxation of the reſtrictive power, was rather conſidered as a favour than acknowledged as a compenſation.

In theſe circumſtances, after a long train of negotiation, and the holding of ſeveral general courts upon the ſubject, an agreement was at length concluded, and a bill was accordingly brought in to confirm it, and paſſed into a law.

By this agreement, the company continue to pay to the public for five years to come, the annual ſum of 400,000l. They are at liberty to increaſe their dividend in that time to 12½ per cent. the encreaſe not to exceed one per cent. in any one year. If the company from any cauſe are, during that time, under a neceſſity of reducing their dividends, an equal ſum ſhall be deducted from the annual payment made to government; but if their dividend ſhould be reduced to ſix per cent. then the payment to the public is to be diſcontinued. The company are bound to export during this term, Britiſh goods equal in value, upon an average, with thoſe exported annually for the laſt five years: and if any ſurplus of the company's caſh ſhall remain in England, after payment of certain ſpecified debts, it is to be lent to the public at two per cent.

Such were the terms of this agreement, and ſuch the opulence of a company of merchants, as, beſides the immenſe ſums they paid to government in duties, to be in a capacity to afford a yearly douceur to the public, which would be no inconſiderable revenue to a ſovereign Prince.

At this period, the French Eaſt India Company preſents a very different commercial picture. This trading ſociety, which had long made a very capital figure in the commercial world, and ſeemed, within a very few years, to have been on the point of obtaining a monopoly of trade and power in the Eaſt, now ſunk into a ruined and bankrupt ſtate. The King immediately ſuſpended their excluſive privileges, and laid the trade to the Eaſt open to all his ſubjects;

con-

A. D. 1769 conſigning, at the ſame time, the affairs of the company, to the care of the miniſtry to adjuſt and ſettle. But the various ſchemes which were then formed for the reſtoration of the old company, and the eſtabliſhment of a new one, were accompanied with ſuch inſurmountable difficulties, as to prove wholly ineffectual. Nor was the laying open of the trade attended with the ſucceſs that was expected; the merchants being very ſlow in engaging in it, though the King, by way of encouragement, lent them ſome of his own ſhips to convey their commodities to the Eaſt. The garriſon and civil eſtabliſhments were, however, ſupported in their exiſting form by the crown.

French commerce was alſo, at this time, greatly diſtreſſed by a continued courſe of bankruptcies, for very large ſums, throughout the kingdom: one of theſe failures, at Marſeilles, was for the amazing ſum of 20,000,000 of livres. The deſperate manœuvre of the French miniſter, which, at one ſtroke, reduced the intereſt of the public funds to $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. without allowing an alternative of withdrawing their money to the public creditors, and at the ſame time taking away the ſurvivorſhip in the tontines, ſtruck at the root of all national faith, and was attended with very fatal conſequences to the private, as well as public credit of the nation.

July 12.—The following queſtion was determined by ballot at the Eaſt India Houſe, by 279 votes againſt 259—“That this court do agree with the court of directors, that it is neceſſary, at this time, to ſend out a commiſſion with extraordinary powers, to regulate their affairs in India.”

The circumſtances of the Eaſt India Company at this period, required ſome deciſive regulations relative to the oriental adminiſtration of their affairs; which might, among other good conſequences, remove the diſſatisfaction which had prevailed throughout the nation with reſpect to the management of them.

The conſequences of the late war in the Carnatic were not confined to the Eaſt Indies: the alarm was caught at home, where the diſtance of the object, and the uncertain knowledge of the danger, having room to operate upon the imagination, multiplied, as is uſual in ſuch caſes, the fears of the people concerned in ſo great a degree, that India ſtock fell above 60 per cent. in a few days. It was in vain that the directors produced their diſpatches from India, and ſhewed that the Company had never been in a more flouriſhing ſtate: the contrary opinion was ſo prevalent, that time alone could correct the conſequences of it.

It was at this time that the directors thought it neceſſary to take ſome effectual meaſures to check the abuſes and miſmanagements which had ſo much diſgraced the Company's government in India, and which had been ſo pernicious to its intereſts both there and at home.—For this important purpoſe, it was thought neceſſary that three gentlemen of character, as well as of great ability and experience in the Company's affairs in that part of the world, ſhould be inveſted with extraordinary powers, and ſent thither under the character of ſupervifors, with full authority to examine into and rectify the concerns of every department, and a full power of controul over all their other ſervants in India. This reſolution of the directors was confirmed, as we have juſt related, by a vote of the general court of proprietors; and, after ſome delays, occaſioned by the interference of government, Mr. Vanſittart, Mr. Serafton, and Colonel Ford, all of whom had before ſerved with reputation, the two firſt in a civil, and the latter in a military capacity, in that part of the world, were accordingly appointed to this ſervice.

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Great Britain,	53,100
Britiſh America,	6,300
France,	23,520
Holland,	11,300
Portugal,	17,00
Denmark,	1,200
In all,	97,120 Bought by barter for European and Indian manufactures, chiefly at about 15l. each.

Total amount of Britiſh ſhips and ſeamen employed in the trade between Great Britain and her colonies on the continent of America, in this year.

Colonies.	*Ships.*	*Seamen.*	
Hudſon's Bay,	4	130	
Labrador, (American veſſels) 120			
Newfoundland, (2,000 boats)	380	20,560	
Canada,	34	408	
Nova Scotia,	6	72	
New England,	46	552	
Rhode Iſland, Connecticut, and New Hampſhire,	3	36	
New York,	30	330	
Pennſylvania,	35	390	
Virginia and Maryland,	330	3,960	
North Carolina,	34	408	
South Carolina,	140	1,680	
Georgia,	24	240	
St. Auguſtine,	2	24	
Penſacola,	10	120	
Total ſhips,	1,078	28,910	Total ſeamen,

The number of ſhips which paſſed the Sound this year, is as follows:—

From Bremen,	99	From Lubeck,	49
—— Courland,	10	—— Pruſſia,	296
—— Denmark,	1,032	—— Ruſſia,	35
—— Dantzick,	262	—— Roſtock,	62
—— England,	1,842	—— Sweden,	1,149
—— France,	13	—— Spain,	3
—— Holland,	2,508		
—— Hamburg,	20	Total,	7,380

The

A. D. 1769 The following bills relating to trade and commerce, received the royal aſſent this year:—

A bill to continue and amend an act for the free importation of Iriſh ſalted proviſions for a further limited time, and alſo from the American colonies.

For carrying into execution propoſals made by the Eaſt India Company for the payment of 400,000l. annually to the public, for a limited time.

For making perpetual an act of the 1ſt of George III. to continue the duties for the encouragement of the coinage of money.

For allowing liberty to carry rice from South Carolina and Georgia to other parts of America.

For making a navigable cut or canal from Oxford to Coventry.

For further encouraging the growth of ſilk in America.

For the better ſecuring the duties of cuſtoms.

For permitting the free importation of raw hides from Ireland and America.

For diſcontinuing upon the exportation of iron imported in foreign ſhips, the drawbacks of ſuch parts of the duties payable thereon, as exceed the duties payable upon iron imported in Britiſh ſhips, &c.

For improving the navigation of the Clyde.

For permitting from Jerſey and Guernſey the exportation of goods to Newfoundland.

For the preſervation of harbour moorings, and puniſhing perſons ſtealing his Majeſty's naval ſtores.

SUPPLIES granted by Parliament for this year:—	£.	s.	d.
For 16,000 ſeamen, including marines, &c.	832,000	0	0
For 17,142 land-forces, &c.	602,673	15	7
For maintaining garriſons in the plantations, Gibraltar, &c. &c.	397,835	18	7⅛
For the difference of pay between the Britiſh and Iriſh eſtabliſhments of five regiments and four companies of foot, &c.	4,661	12	7
For the pay of the general and ſtaff-officers, &c.	12,203	11	6½
For defraying the charge of full pay, &c. to certain reduced officers, &c.	4,763	5	0
For the ordinary of the navy, &c.	410,255	8	1
Towards building and repairing ſhips, &c. &c.	282,413	0	0
For the charge of the office of ordnance for the land ſervice,	177,947	18	0
For ſervices performed by ditto for ditto, not provided for by Parliament in 1768,	43,812	19	0
For widows penſions, &c.	1,480	0	0
For reduced officers, &c.	127,020	0	0
For allowances to certain reduced officers and private gentlemen of the two reduced troops of horſe-guards, &c.	1,331	0	0
Towards the charge of Chelſea out-penſioners,	107,394	15	10
Towards the civil eſtabliſhment of Nova Scotia,	4,375	17	11
Ditto of Georgia,	3,086	0	0
Ditto of Eaſt Florida, &c.	4,750	0	0
Ditto of Weſt Florida, &c.	4,800	0	0
On account of ſurveys in America,	1,785	4	0
Towards the civil eſtabliſhment of Senegambia,	5,550	0	0
Carried forward,	£. 3,030,140	6	1⅝

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	£.	s.	d.
Brought over,	£. 3,030,140	6	1⅝
For diſcharging certain Exchequer bills, &c.	1,800,000	0	0
To Charles Dingley of London, merchant, as a reward for his having erected and brought to perfection, for the benefit of the public, a wind ſaw-mill at Limehouſe, for the purpoſe of manufacturing timber into wainſcot and deals; and as a recompence for the loſs he ſuſtained in the wilful deſtruction of the ſaid wind ſaw-mill, by a number of riotous and diſorderly perſons,	2,000	0	0
To diſcharge the arrears of the civil liſt,	513,511	0	0
Towards erecting a magazine for gunpowder in Portſmouth harbour,	4,000	0	0
Towards the extraordinaries of the land-forces, &c. not provided for by Parliament,	238,557	2	2
For replacing to the ſinking fund the like ſum iſſued thereout,	47,531	18	6
For ditto,	18,930	3	4¾
To the Foundling Hoſpital,	19,957	10	0
To ditto, to apprentice certain children,	5,600	0	0
To repay the governors of the ſaid hoſpital the like ſum advanced by them,	3,231	16	0
To make good the like ſum, iſſued by his Majeſty orders, in purſuance of the addreſſes of the Houſe of Commons,	16,500	0	0
Towards an additional building, &c. to the Houſe of Commons,	3,000	0	0
Towards diſcharging the debts of the navy,	400,000	0	0
To make good the deficiency of grants for the ſervice of 1768,	186,043	1	7¾
For repairing and maintaining forts, &c. on the coaſt of Africa,	2,000	0	0
To pay the prizes in the preſent lottery, &c	600,000	0	0
To the Levant Company, to aſſiſt it in carrying on its trade,	5,000	0	0
Towards making a new road to Holyhead at the foot of Penmaen Mawr,	2,000	0	0
To Frederick Lafontaine, &c. to encourage the making of ſaltpetre,	2,000	0	0
Total of Supplies,	6,900,002	17	10⅛

Ways and Means for this year:—	£.	s.	d.
Malt-tax,	700,000	0	0
The land-tax,	1,528,568	11	11¾
By Exchequer bills,	1,800,000	0	0
The Eaſt India Company,	400,000	0	0
Lottery,	780,000	0	0
Out of certain ſavings, &c.	30,000	0	0
Certain ſurpluſſes,	135,177	15	6½
From the ſinking fund,	1,664,822	4	5½
Out of certain unapplied monies, &c.	109,864	19	4½
Out of certain monies in the Exchequer, for the diſpoſal of Parliament,	59,879	8	5½
Total of ways and means,	7,208,312	19	9¾
Supply granted,	6,900,002	17	10⅛
Exceſs of proviſions,	£. 308,310	1	11⅝

☞ The

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☞ The charge of the pay and cloathing of the militia for this year, from March 25, 1769, was ordered to be defrayed out of the monies ariſing by the land-tax granted for the ſervice of the year 1769.

Additional duties, regulation of duties, and bounties in this year.

March 14.—The duties of exciſe, payable upon ſeal ſkins, tanned, tawed, or dreſſed, within this kingdom, were taken off; and in lieu thereof, a duty of exciſe of 1½ was laid upon every pound weight avoirdupois of ſuch ſkins: the ſaid duty was applied to the ſame uſes as thoſe taken off had been appropriated.

April 11.—Such of the monies as ſhould be paid into the receipt of the Exchequer, after April 4, 1769, and before April 5, 1770, of the produce of the duties charged by an act of the fifth of his preſent Majeſty, upon the importation and exportation of gum Senega and gum Arabic, were ordered to be applied towards making good the ſupply granted to his Majeſty.

April 12.—Such part of the duties which had been, or ſhould be, paid upon iron imported into foreign-built ſhips, navigated by foreigners, as exceeds the duties payable upon iron imported in Britiſh-built ſhips, navigated by Britiſh ſubjects, were voted not to be drawn back upon re-exportation.

The drawback formerly payable upon the exportation of foreign rough hemp, and which was diſcontinued by an act of the ſixth of his preſent Majeſty, was reſtored, upon condition that the pre-emption thereof be offered to the commiſſioners of the navy. The act of the fourth of his preſent Majeſty, for granting a liberty to carry rice from the provinces of South Carolina and Georgia, directly to any part of America to the ſouthward of the ſaid provinces; and alſo a clauſe in an act of the fifth of his ſaid Majeſty, for more effectually ſecuring and encouraging the trade of his Majeſty's American dominions; for repealing the inland duty on coffee, and granting an inland duty on all coffee imported, except of the growth of the Britiſh dominions in America; for altering the bounties and drawbacks upon ſugars exported; for repealing part of an act of the twenty-third of his late Majeſty, whereby bar iron made in the ſaid dominions, was prohibited to be exported from Great Britain, or carried coaſtwiſe; and for regulating the fees of the officers of the cuſtoms in the ſaid dominions, which gives liberty to export rice from North Carolina, in the ſame manner as are enacted by the act of the fourth of his preſent Majeſty, with reſpect to South Carolina and Georgia, being near expiring, were thought fit to be continued.

April 15.—The act of the firſt of his preſent Majeſty, to continue the duties for the encouragement of coinage of money, was made perpetual.

April 17.—The annual ſum of 1,500l. granted to his Majeſty for the principal ſecretaries of ſtate, to be diſtributed among the clerks, in compenſation for the advantages which they enjoyed from their ſending and receiving letters and packets free from the duty of poſtage, before the commencement of the act of the fourth of his preſent Majeſty, for preventing frauds and abuſes in ſending and receiving letters and packets free from the duty of poſtage, was made payable out of the revenues from the poſt-office.

April 18.—As the further encouragement of the growth and culture of raw ſilk, in his Majeſty's dominions in America, would be of great advantage to the trade and manufactures of Great Britain, a bounty was granted in the manner following, viz. during the firſt ſeven years, the ſum of 25l. for every 100l. value of ſuch raw ſilk; during the next ſeven years, the ſum of 20l. for every 100l. and during the laſt ſeven years, the ſum of 15l. for every 100l. which was ordered to be paid out of his Majeſty's cuſtoms.

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IMPORTS and EXPORTS, from CHRISTMAS 1768, to CHRISTMAS 1769.

Countries.	*Imports.*			*Exports.*		
Africa,	£. 58,955	12	6	£. 605,180	5	11
Canaries,	6,612	5	11	36,036	6	3
Denmark and Norway,	82,469	8	4	169,155	6	2
Eaſt Country,	159,481	13	9	74,422	3	2
Eaſt India,	1,863,233	14	10	1,205,388	18	4
Flanders,	103,276	18	3	623,579	2	10
France,	91,245	6	11	113,310	9	11
Germany,	619,181	11	9	1,338,866	9	8
Greenland,	21,353	0	5	72	0	0
Holland,	323,720	14	5	1,658,551	13	1
Ireland,	1,265,107	12	8	1,964,742	1	9
Italy,	930,045	19	0	746,220	6	2
Madeiras,	4,935	9	7	27,459	2	3
Portugal,	369,120	9	1	545,367	2	2
Ruſſia,	1,038,614	15	10	158,777	11	5
Spain,	577,816	6	4	830,893	19	6
Streights,	7,775	5	7	142,237	15	4
Sweden,	182,896	8	3	57,211	14	8
Turkey,	144,419	17	3	90,880	12	6
Venice,	60,376	5	8	74,371	8	8
Alderney,	112	1	0	814	18	7
Guernſey,	17,912	12	1	37,508	14	10
Jerſey,	14,703	7	3	27,471	6	5
Anguilla,	3,747	17	3	—		
Antigua,	232,680	8	6	151,642	2	9
Barbadoes,	254,092	15	6	165,050	10	9
Bermudas,	1,744	19	3	12,621	8	9
Canada,	43,434	2	3	174,435	5	7
Carolina,	387,114	12	1	306,600	5	6
Dominica,	158,543	2	4	31,863	10	1
Florida,	1,744	12	2	29,509	4	10
Georgia,	82,270	2	3	58,340	19	4
Grenades,	307,562	15	1	113,054	6	8
Hudſon's Bay,	7,087	5	7	4,655	13	4
Jamaica,	1,266,630	9	4	570,468	10	11
Montſerrat,	77,653	16	0	23,110	1	9
Nevis,	40,379	4	6	10,428	9	5
New England,	129,353	3	8	207,993	14	3
Newfoundland,	50,835	3	3	64,080	5	4
New Providence,	4,435	15	11	6,682	18	8
New York,	73,466	3	9	74,918	7	10
Nova Scotia,	2,270	3	7	19,271	0	2
Pennſylvania,	26,111	11	4	199,909	17	11
St. Croix,	18,220	1	3	2,809	4	10
St. Kitts,	224,096	9	9	115,609	10	4
St. Vincent,	70,772	9	3	33,720	16	10
Tobago,	—			6,119	0	0
Tortola,	54,560	1	5	27,106	12	10
Virginia and Maryland,	361,892	12	0	488,362	15	1
Spaniſh Weſt Indies	81,494	2	6	11,352	3	7
Totals,	11,908,560	16	5	13,438,236	6	11
Exports exceed the Imports,	1,529,675	10	6			

The

A. D. 1769 The chriſtenings and burials within the bills of mortality of London and Weſtminſter for this year, are as follows:

Chriſtened, Males,	8,569	Buried, Males,	11,033
Females,	8,145	Females,	10,814
	16,714		21,847

At Paris,—the births amounted to 19,445; deaths, 18,427; marriages, 4,860. The number of foundlings received into the hoſpitals there, were 6,426.

1770 The troops which were ſtationed at Boſton had not produced thoſe ends for which they had been ſent thither; the colonies ſtill continued their former reſolution to oppoſe Britiſh importations. Aſſociations were publicly formed for this purpoſe; they met regularly, as if duly authoriſed by law; and appointed committees to inſpect the cargoes of all veſſels arriving from Britain. Severe cenſures were paſſed upon all who refuſed to concur in thoſe aſſociations; and their names were publiſhed in the newſpapers, as enemies to their country. In ſome caſes, goods imported from Great Britain were immediately ſeized as ſoon as landed; and ſecured in warehouſes to prevent their ſale; in other caſes they were re-ſhipped and ſent back to Great Britain.

Nothing, however, had yet been done in England reſpecting the affairs of the colonies; but a petition being, at this time, preſented by the American merchants, ſetting forth the great loſſes they had ſuſtained by, and the fatal effects of the late laws, which, for the purpoſe of raiſing a revenue in the colonies, had impoſed duties upon goods exported from Great Britain; the Miniſtry of Great Britain thought proper to bring in a bill to repeal ſo much of the late act, as related to the impoſing a duty on paper, painter's colours and glaſs; but in order to preſerve the dignity of the legiſlature, and merely to ſave the national honour, the duty upon tea was continued.

Many ſtrong arguments were produced in favour of repealing the act in toto; among which, it was inſiſted that the tax would amount to no more than ſixteen thouſand pounds; that to collect it, the whole eſtabliſhment of cuſtom houſes, &c. muſt be continued, and that it would be very naturally conſidered in America, as an inlet to other taxes on the ſame plan, whenever time and opportunity were more favourable than the preſent, for the Britiſh Miniſtry to make ſuch an attempt:—ſubſequent experience too fully proved, that this mode of reaſoning was founded in truth. The continuance of the duty upon tea, trifling as it was, excited diſcontents in the colonies to a very violent degree, and their objections to it were preciſely thoſe which had been offered by the oppoſition in Parliament; that it would be made a precedent, upon which others of the ſame nature might in future be demanded.

March 26.—At a general court of the Eaſt India Company, at their houſe in Leadenhall-ſtreet, the following queſtion was determined by ballot:

“That the dividend on the capital ſtock of this company, for the half year, commencing at Chriſtmas laſt, and ending at Midſummer next, be at ſix per cent.”

For the queſtion, 139———Againſt it, 1.

The following order of the Houſe of Commons appeared on the 27th of April, in the London Gazette.

“*Jovis*, 26 *die Aprilis*, 1770.

“Ordered, That Mr. Speaker do forthwith give notice, that the ſum of 1,500,000l. capital ſtock of annuities, after the rate of 3l. 10s. per cent. eſtabliſhed by an act made in the 29th

1770 year of the reign of his late Majeſty King George II. intituled, An act for granting to his Majeſty the ſum of 2,000,000, to be raiſed by way of annuities and a lottery, and charged upon the ſinking fund, redeemable by Parliament, and for extending to Ireland the laws made in this kingdom againſt private and unlawful lotteries,—will be redeemed and paid off on the 12th day of February next, after diſcharging the intereſt then payable in reſpect of the ſame, agreeable to the clauſes and powers of redemption contained in the ſaid act.

Which order, thus ſignified and publiſhed by me, is to be ſufficient notice of the repayment of 1,500,000l. for which the ſaid annuities were eſtabliſhed, and of the redemption of the annuities as are attending the ſame.

Fletcher Norton, *Speaker*.

The following eſtimate was this year publiſhed in France, of the produce of that part of the iſland of Hiſpaniola, in the poſſeſſion of the French, and generally known by the name of St. Domingo.

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
Sugar, two-thirds brown, 160,000 hogſheads, ten hundred weight each, at 15l. ſterling per hogſhead,	2,400,000	0	0
Coffee, 5,000,000 pounds, at 4d. per pound,	83,333	6	8
Cotton, 8,000 bags, 300 pounds weight each, at 15l. per bag,	120,000	0	0
Tanned leather, 20,000 hides, at 20s. per hide,	20,000	0	0
Indigo, 2,000,000 pounds weight, at 3s. per pound,	150,000	0	0
Total,	2,773,333	6	8

In the courſe of this year 3,890 ſhips were cleared from Newcaſtle, of which 3,520 were coaſtwiſe, and 370 for foreign countries.

The groſs produce of the duty on hops for one year, ending the 5th of January, 1771.

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
Barum,	43	9	2
Bath,	0	6	6
Bedford,	48	16	0
Bucks,	19	9	4
Cambridge,	64	15	5
Canterbury,	27,600	4	2
Cornwall,	121	8	5
Derby,	406	11	0
Doncaſter,	15	4	4
Dorſet,	14	6	2
Eſſex,	2,781	19	8
Exon,	15	10	5
Glouceſter,	23	10	5
Grantham,	43	11	0
Hants,	8,324	12	11
Hereford,	7,065	2	4
Hertford,	55	12	8
Lincoln,	1,798	7	4
Carried over,	48,442	17	3

		£.	s.	d.
Brought over,		48,442	17	3
Lynn,		22	7	3
Mancheſter,		75	13	10
Northampton,		2	6	5
Norwich,		22	16	2
Oxon,		0	8	11
Reading,		1,221	7	11
Rocheſter,		28,243	12	8
Sarum,		129	15	8
Salop,		9	2	0
Sheffield,		704	18	8
Suffolk,		1,191	10	0
Surry,		138	17	11
Suſſex,		13,687	2	8
Taunton,		6	13	0
Tiverton,		4	11	4
Wales,	Eaſt,	0	15	4
	Middle,	19	9	0
	Weſt,	4	7	8
Wolverhampton,		4,340	14	10
Worceſter,		2,811	14	4
Total,		101,081	2	10

The following bills, relating to trade and commerce, received the royal aſſent in the courſe of this year:

To continue an act for allowing the free exportation of tallow, hog's lard, and greaſe, for a further limited time.

For better regulating the navigation of the river Trent, from Wilden Ferry, in the county of Derby, to Gainſborough in Lincolnſhire.

For allowing the exportation of malt for a limited time.

For repealing part of an act, for granting certain duties in the Britiſh colonies in America.

To amend an act to make a navigable cut, or canal, from the Trent, at or near Wilden Ferry, in Derbyſhire, to the river Merſey, &c.

To continue the terms and powers granted, for keeping in repair the harbour of Minehead in Somerſetſhire.

To continue the duties granted for repairing the harbour and quay of Watchett, in the ſaid county.

To continue an act for encouraging the making of indigo in the Britiſh Plantations in America.

To appropriate a fund for granting to his Majeſty additional duties on certain foreign linens imported, and for eſtabliſhing a fund for encouraging the raiſing and dreſſing hemp and flax.

To continue an act for granting a bounty on Britiſh and Iriſh linens exported.

A. D. 1770 For regiſtering the prices at which corn is ſold, in the ſeveral counties in Great Britain.

☞ "The preamble to this act only ſuggeſts, that a regiſter of the prices at which corn is ſold in the ſeveral counties of Great Britain, will be of public and general advantage: for which reaſon the juſtices of the peace for each county in Great Britain, are required, at their quarter ſeſſions, next after September 29, annually to direct returns to be made weekly of the prices of wheat, rye, barley, oats and beans, from ſo many market-towns within their reſpective counties, as they ſhall think proper, not being leſs than two, nor more than ſix; and to appoint a proper perſon to ſend the ſame to a perſon to be appointed to receive them; and in caſe ſuch perſon ſhall die, neglect his duty, or become incapable of performing it, any two juſtices acting for the county, may appoint another till the next quarter ſeſſions, at which the juſtices may either confirm ſuch appointment, or chuſe another.

"By this act, the meal-weighers of the city of London are to take an account of the prices at the markets, within the ſaid city, and return the average weekly to the perſon appointed to receive the ſame.

"The juſtices for each county ſhall cauſe alſo a ſtandard Wincheſter buſhel of eight gallons to be kept at every market town, from whence ſuch returns ſhall be made; and ſuch returns ſhall be the average prices by the cuſtomary meaſure of each reſpective market; and alſo by that Wincheſter buſhel.

"By this act, the Lord High Treaſurer is empowered to appoint a fit perſon to receive the returns at the Treaſury, and to enter them fairly in a book kept for that purpoſe; and all exports and imports of grain from and into Great Britain, with the bounties paid and received thereon, to be tranſmitted annually to the ſame perſon, and regiſtered in proper books by the perſon appointed to receive the returns of the prices from the ſeveral counties. It was enacted to continue in force for ſeven years."

To explain and amend ſeveral acts, for providing a public reward for diſcovering the longitude at ſea.

A bill to prevent delays of juſtice, by reaſon of privilege of Parliament.

☞ Though this bill appears, at the firſt view, to be a mere practical alteration in law proceſs, a little further examination will diſcover it, in its conſequences, to operate very powerfully as a commercial advantage, and on that account we ſhall give a ſhort abſtract of it.

"It is thereby enacted, that from the 24th of June in this year, any perſon may, at any time, commence or proſecute any action or ſuit, in any court of record, or court of admiralty, and in all cauſes matrimonial and teſtamentary, againſt any Peer or Lord of Parliament of Great Britain, or againſt any of the knights, citizens and burgeſſes, and the commiſſioners for ſhires and burghs of the Houſe of Commons of Great Britain, or againſt their menial or other ſervants, or any other perſon entitled to the privilege of the Parliament of Great Britain; and no ſuch action, ſuit, or any other proceſs or proceeding thereupon, ſhall at any time be impeached, ſtayed, or delayed, by or under colour or pretence of any privilege of Parliament.

"It is nevertheleſs provided, that nothing in this act ſhall extend to ſubject the perſon of any Lord or Member of Parliament to be arreſted or impriſoned upon any ſuch ſuit or proceeding: by this act, however, obedience may be enforced to any rule of his Majeſty's courts, againſt any perſon entitled to privilege of Parliament, by diſtreſs infinite; and the iſſues ariſing from ſuch diſtreſs may be ſold, from time to time, for the payment of the plaintiff's coſts, &c."

A bill for the better regulating perſons employed in the ſervice of the Eaſt India Company.

A. D. 1770 For compleating the navigation of the river Swale, from its junction with the Ure to Merton bridge, in Yorkſhire.

For making a navigable canal from Leeds to the ſea bank, near the North Ladies Walk, by Liverpool.

For extending the like liberty to the exportation of rice from Eaſt and Weſt Florida, to the ſouthward of Cape Finiſterre, in Europe, as is granted to Carolina and Georgia.

To continue an act for allowing the free importation of ſalted proviſions from Ireland, and from the American colonies, for a further limited time.

SUPPLIES granted by Parliament for the year 1770.	£.	s.	d.
For 17,666 land forces, &c. — — —	624,992	0	2
For maintaining garriſons in the Plantations, Gibraltar, &c.	383,248	1	11½
For the difference of pay between the Britiſh and Iriſh eſtabliſhment of five battalions, &c. — — — —	4,533	12	8
For the pay of the general and ſtaff officers, &c. —	12,203	18	6½
For defraying the charge of full pay for one year, for certain reduced officers, — — — — —	4,513	16	8
For the penſions payable to widows of certain reduced officers,	664	0	0
On account of the reduced officers of his Majeſty's land forces and marines for the year 1770, — — —	123,233	2	6
For allowances to certain officers and gentlemen of the two reduced troops of horſe guards, &c. — — —	1,289	1	3
For the charge of the office of ordnance for the land ſervice	166,984	11	5
For defraying the expence of ſervice performed by the office of ordnance for land ſervice, not provided for by Parliament in 1769 —	40,933	10	8
For 16,000 ſeamen, &c. — — —	832,000	0	0
For the ordinary of the navy, — —	406,380	13	11
Towards building, repairing, &c. of ſhips, &c. —	283,687	0	0
Towards the extraordinaries of his Majeſty's land forces, &c. not provided for by Parliament, — — —	235,264	10	9½
Towards the charge of Chelſea out-penſioners, —	112,423	4	7
On account of the civil eſtabliſhment of Weſt Florida, &c.	4,800	0	0
Ditto of Eaſt Florida, &c. — — —	4,750	0	0
Ditto of Georgia, &c. — — —	3,086	0	0
Ditto of Nova Scotia, — — —	4,239	0	5
On account of general ſurveys in North America, —	1,885	4	0
On account of the civil government of Senegambia, &c. —	5,550	0	0
For paying off certain Exchequer bills, — —	1,800,000	0	0
To the African Company, for maintaining forts, &c. on the coaſt of Africa, — — — — —	13,000	0	0
Towards aſſiſting the inhabitants of Barbadoes in defraying the expence of cleanſing the channel, repairing the mole, and rendering the harbour more ſafe and commodious, — — —	5,000	0	0
To make good to his Majeſty the like ſum which has been iſſued, in purſuance of addreſſes of the Houſe of Commons, —	13,100	0	0
Carried over,	5,087,761	9	6½

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	£.	s.	d.
Brought over,	5,087,761	9	6½
To the Britiſh Muſeum, — — —	2,000	0	0
For a more commodious paſſage to the Houſe of Commons,	2,000	0	0
On account, to enable his Majeſty to diſcharge the debts owing upon the forfeited eſtates in Scotland; and alſo for paying and diſcharging the prices agreed to be paid to the Lords Superiors, for the purchaſe of the ſuperiorities of, and likewiſe for their claims of property to, certain ſpecified eſtates which were forfeited in that kingdom, —	72,000	0	0
To replace to the ſinking fund the like ſum paid out of the ſame, to make good certain deficiencies, &c. — — —	46,463	12	8
To make good the deficiency of the grants for the year 1769,	55,011	7	5½
To diſcharge certain unſatisfied claims and demands incurred during the late war in Germany, &c. — — —	45,565	12	0
To the Levant Company, to aſſiſt the ſaid company in carrying on their trade, — — — —	5,000	0	0
On account, to the Foundling Hoſpital, &c. — —	9,650	0	0
To enable the ſaid hoſpital to apprentice certain children, &c.	3,500	0	0
To enable his Majeſty to redeem and pay off the capital ſtock of certain annuities, &c. — — — —	1,500,000	0	0
To pay the benefit prizes of the lottery charged upon the ſupplies of the current year, — — — —	500,000	0	0
On account of making roads and building bridges in the Highlands of North Britain, — — — —	6,998	10	2
Towards diſcharging the debt of the navy, —	100,000	0	0
To enable his Majeſty to make compenſation to Francis Dalby, of London, merchant, for the damages which the ſaid Francis Dalby ſuffered by the ſtoppage and loſs of his ſhip called the Britannia, at Mahon, by order of the late Admiral Matthews, and by the uſe, employment and detainer of his ſhip called the Francis, by order of the commanders of his Majeſty's fleets, — — — —	6,195	8	11
To enable his Majeſty to make good the like ſum which has been paid to ſeveral perſons in the county of Southampton, as a compenſation for certain loſſes and expences incurred, purſuant to ſeveral orders of council, for preventing the ſpreading of the diſtemper among the horned cattle,	796	7	6
To John Hatſell, Eſq. clerk of the Houſe of Commons, towards defraying the expence of printing the journals of the Houſe, &c. —	600	0	0
To be advanced to ſuch perſon, or perſons, as the Speaker of this Houſe ſhall authorize to receive the ſame, towards defraying the expence of making a general index to the journals of this Houſe, —	500	0	0
Towards defraying the expence of printing 1,250 copies, of ſuch parliamentary and other records as his Majeſty ſhall think fit, —	6,000	0	0
Total of ſupplies,	7,450,042	8	3

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Ways and Means for raiſing the foregoing ſupplies.	£.	s.	d.
Duty on malt, &c.	700,000	0	0
Land tax,	1,528,568	11	11¾
Exchequer bills,	1,800,000	0	0
From the certain ſurpluſſes of the ſinking fund, &c.	299,375	6	6¼
From the Eaſt India Company	400,000	0	0
For the ſpecified ſurplus of the ſinking fund, remaining in the Exchequer, for the diſpoſition of Parliament,	773,240	16	0½
From a ſurplus, over and above the ſaid ſurplus, of the ſinking fund,	13,596	5	10½
By a lottery,	500,000	0	0
From the ſinking fund,	1,700,000	0	0
By a balance remaining in the office of the paymaſter-general, &c.	55,495	15	8¼
From the duties, &c. directed to be reſerved for the diſpoſition of Parliament, towards protecting and defending the Britiſh colonies, &c.	20,000	0	0
By the final balance of the Earl of Kinnoul, formerly paymaſter of his Majeſty's forces, &c.	3,948	3	7
Total Ways and Means,	7,794,224	19	8½
Total Supplies,	7,450,042	8	3
Exceſs of Proviſions,	344,182	11	5½

☞ The charge of the pay and cloathing of the militia of England, for one year, beginning the 25th of March, 1770, was ordered to be defrayed out of the monies ariſing by the land-tax granted for the ſervice of the ſaid year.

An account of additional duties, regulations, bounties, &c. in the courſe of this year :—

The bounties granted on Britiſh and Iriſh linens exported, by an act made in the 29th of his late Majeſty, were continued :—And the duties on the importation of foreign raw linen-yarn, which are taken off by the ſaid act, were further diſcontinued.—A bounty was alſo allowed on the exportation of Britiſh chequed and ſtriped linens : and the ſum of 15,000l. granted by an act paſſed in the 7th of his preſent Majeſty, entitled, “An Act for granting to his Majeſty additional Duties on certain foreign Linens imported into this Kingdom, and for eſtabliſhing a Fund for the encouraging of the raiſing and dreſſing of Hemp and Flax,” was voted to be appropriated.

The duties payable upon the importation into this kingdom of baſt or ſtraw, chip, cane, or horſe-hair hats and bonnets, and upon certain materials for making the ſame, ceaſed and determined : and, in lieu of all former duties, any of theſe articles, which, after the 24th of June, 1770, ſhould be imported into this kingdom, were to pay the old ſubſidy, granted by the act of tonnage and poundage, made in the 12th of Charles II. after the rate of 12s. 6d. per dozen ; each hat or bonnet not exceeding 22 inches diameter ; and 1l. 5s. per dozen, of ſuch hats, &c. as ſhould exceed 22 inches diameter.—And, in lieu of all former duties, all platting, or other manufactures of the aforeſaid materials, proper for making of hats or bonnets, which, after the 24th of June, 1770, ſhould be imported into this kingdom, were to pay the ſaid old ſubſidy, after the rate of 6s. 8d. for every pound weight avoirdupois.

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1770

IMPORTS and EXPORTS, from CHRISTMAS 1769, to CHRISTMAS 1770.

Countries.	*Imports.*			*Exports.*		
	£.	*s.*	*d.*	*£.*	*s.*	*d.*
Africa,	68,449	13	7	571,003	6	9
Canaries,	10,656	8	9	41,352	11	10
Denmark and Norway,	76,898	17	2	167,257	4	11
Eaſt Country,	175,552	15	6	80,329	0	8
Eaſt India,	1,941,627	4	0	1,082,030	8	10
Flanders,	113,860	11	7	678,286	12	1
France,	65,975	19	11	156,509	6	7
Germany,	684,463	8	11	1,272,569	0	4
Greenland,	22,626	6	1	29	6	4
Holland,	352,535	6	4	1,766,333	10	2
Ireland,	1,214,398	4	5	2,125,466	12	8
Italy,	815,944	17	2	756,385	11	3
Madeiras,	4,935	12	6	26,500	15	3
Portugal,	329,663	3	4	534,708	19	1
Ruſſia,	1,046,710	5	11	145,743	6	9
Spain,	505,267	13	2	887,099	1	4
Streights,	7,083	11	5	148,813	18	3
Sweden,	136,616	6	0	58,576	4	8
Turkey,	164,366	3	6	22,032	15	8
Venice,	82,963	19	7	71,541	5	4
Alderney,	38	10	0	992	9	8
Guernſey,	27,735	18	8	26,656	14	6
Jerſey,	19,768	5	9	24,959	1	7
Canada,	40,703	6	7	231,626	6	6
Carolina,	278,907	14	0	146,273	17	0
Cape Breton,	197	4	4	—	—	—
Florida,	3,688	3	0	39,857	12	11
Georgia,	55,532	7	5	56,193	16	7
Hudſon's Bay,	10,715	0	7	4,623	2	1
New England,	148,011	14	9	394,451	7	5
Newfoundland,	45,108	11	0	91,058	0	0
New Providence,	6,387	11	10	6,060	7	7
New York,	69,882	10	5	475,991	12	0
Nova Scotia,	7,324	7	4	45,092	4	10
Pennſylvania,	28,109	5	11	134,881	15	5
Virginia and Maryland,	435,094	9	7	717,782	17	3
Anguilla,	167	17	11	—	—	—
Antigua,	349,102	1	8	112,533	2	0
Barbadoes,	283,455	19	1	203,568	9	8
Bermudas,	—	—	—	9,705	15	6
Dominica,	136,152	18	7	34,209	7	10
Grenada,	433,421	12	1	136,792	12	8
Jamaica,	1,274,807	13	6	558,219	10	6
Montſerrat,	83,947	9	1	19,297	16	5
Nevis,	97,152	19	5	17,307	10	3
St. Croix,	21,386	12	9	1,069	5	3
St. Chriſtopher's,	324,287	7	8	96,834	10	1
St. Euſtatia,	476	18	11	—	—	—
St. Vincent,	81,965	18	3	42,821	13	11
Tobago,	2,323	11	10	19,123	4	9
Tortola,	43,230	4	4	16,985	12	9
Spaniſh Weſt Indies,-Honduras Bay,	87,256	19	2	9,115	1	9
Totals,	12,216937	14	3	14,266,653	17	5
Exports exceed the Imports,	2,049,716	3	2			

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1770 The number of chriſtenings and burials within the bills of mortality in London, &c. from December 12, 1769, to December 11, 1770, is as follows:

Chriſtened, males	8,761	Buried, males	11,210
——— females	8,348	—— females	11,224
	17,109		22,434

At York, there were in this year, chriſtenings, 517; burials, 429; marriages, 175.

At Paris,—births, 19,549; deaths, 18,719; marriages, 4,775; foundlings received into the hoſpitals, 6,918.

1771 As our difference with the court of Spain, relative to Falkland's Iſlands, forms a very important part of the buſineſs of this year, it becomes us to give ſome account of the ſubject of it.

Thoſe iſlands called by us Falkland's, and by the French, the Malouines, lie in about 51½ degrees of ſouthern latitude, and about 100 leagues on this ſide of the Streights of Magellan. They were firſt diſcovered in the year 1592, by Captain Davies, who was in too great diſtreſs at the time, to make any particular obſervations on them; nor did he even give them a name; which was reſerved for Sir Richard Hawkins, who, about two years after, again diſcovered them, and, in honour of his miſtreſs, as well as to perpetuate his own name, called them Hawkins's Maiden Land. They were afterwards diſcovered by the Dutch, who gave them the name of the Sebaldine Iſlands. To one Strong, who fell in with them in the reign of King William, they owe their preſent Engliſh appellation, and from ſome ſhips belonging to St. Maloes, who viſited them, they received the name of the Malouines, which has alſo been adopted by the Spaniards.

Lord Anſon's voyage firſt ſhewed the great advantage that would be produced to this nation in time of war, to have a friendly port and place of refreſhment, conſiderably more to the ſouth, and much nearer Cape Horn than the Brazils. Beſides the jealouſy, and the general unfriendly behaviour of the Portugueſe in that quarter, the voyage from thence to the South Seas is of ſo great a length, that the vigour and health of the men, as well as their water and other proviſions, muſt be greatly exhauſted before they arrive at the ſcene of action; to which may be added, that the ſhips become foul and out of condition from ſuch a continued ſtretch of navigation. Another reaſon, equally material with the preceding ones, was the certainty that the Spaniards would be well informed by the Portugueſe of the ſtrength, condition, and deſtination of any fleet long before its deſign could be put in execution.

This ſcheme of Lord Anſon, then Firſt Lord of the Admiralty, was on the point of being adopted, very ſoon after the peace of 1748; but the court of Spain gaining intelligence of the project before it could be carried into execution, made ſuch ſtrong repreſentations againſt it both here and at Madrid, that it was then laid aſide, and continued in a dormant ſtate, till it was again revived by the Earl of Egmont, when he preſided at the head of the Admiralty: Commodore Byron was then ſent out to renew the deſigns of Lord Anſon, and in the beginning of the year 1765 took poſſeſſion of Falkland's Iſlands in the name of his Britannic Majeſty.

About the ſame time, or, perhaps, rather previous to it, Monſieur de Bougainville ſailed from St. Maloes on a voyage of diſcovery, and arriving at Falkland's iſlands, built a ſmall fort and formed an eſtabliſhment there, which about two years after was ceded to Spain, and its name

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1771 name changed from Port Louis to Port Solidad. The Britiſh ſettlement called Port Egmont, was fixed on a ſmall iſland adjoining to the greater and moſt weſtern of the two conſiderable iſlands, and Port Solidad, on the eaſtern and leſſer of the principal iſlands.

It does not appear that either of the ſettlements on theſe iſlands knew of the other; but however that might be, we find that in the year 1769, we had a frigate and a ſloop upon that ſtation, and Captain Hunt, of the Farmer frigate, being on a cruize off the iſlands, fell in with a Spaniſh ſchooner belonging to Port Solidad, taking a ſurvey of them, the captain of which, according to his orders, he warned to depart from that coaſt, as belonging to his Britannic Majeſty. The ſchooner, however, returned in two days, and brought on board a Spaniſh officer with letters and a preſent from Don Phillip Ruez Puenta, Governor of Port Solidad. In theſe letters, which were written in terms of great civility, the governor affected not to believe the account he had received from the captain of the ſchooner, but attributed the Engliſh frigate being in thoſe ſeas to chance or diſtreſs of weather; but if it ſhould be otherwiſe, he reminded Captain Hunt of the violation of treaties, aſſerted his maſter's dominion, and warned him to depart. Captain Hunt, in anſwer, aſſerted the ſole dominion of his Britannic Majeſty, and warned the Spaniſh Governor, in his turn, to quit the iſlands. This explanation produced thoſe conſequences, which occaſioned his Majeſty in the ſpeech from the throne, at the opening of the ſeſſions, to inform Parliament, that the Governor of Buenos Ayres had ſeized by force a poſſeſſion of the Britiſh crown, and that preparations were making to ſuſtain the national rights, and to revenge the national honour. A negociation between the two crowns, however, took place on the occaſion, and after much miſunderſtanding and diſcuſſion between the Miniſters of the two Courts, the matter in diſpute, which, trifling as it was, might have involved Europe in war, was finally ſettled, according to the tenor of the following papers.

The declaration ſigned and delivered by Prince de Maſerano, ambaſſador extraordinary from his Catholic Majeſty, dated January 22, 1771.

“ His Britannic Majeſty having complained of the violence which was committed on the 10th of June, 1770, at the iſland commonly called the Great Malouine, and by the Engliſh, Falkland's Iſland, in obliging, by force, the commander and ſubjects of his Britannic Majeſty, to evacuate the port, by them called Egmont; a ſtep offenſive to the honour of his crown;—the Prince de Maſerano, ambaſſador extraordinary of his Catholic Majeſty, has received orders to declare, and declares, that his Catholic Majeſty, conſidering the deſire with which he is animated for peace, and for the maintenance of good harmony with his Britannic Majeſty, and reflecting that this event might interrupt it, has ſeen with diſpleaſure this expedition tending to diſturb it; and in the perſuaſion in which he is, of the reciprocity of ſentiments of his Britannic Majeſty; and of its being far from his intention to authorize any thing that might diſturb the good underſtanding between the two courts; his Catholic Majeſty does diſavow the ſaid violent enterprize; and in conſequence, the Prince de Maſerano declares, that his Catholic Majeſty engages to give immediate orders, that things ſhall be reſtored in the Great Malouine, at the port called Egmont, preciſely to the ſtate in which they were before the 10th of June, 1770: for which purpoſe his Catholic Majeſty will give orders to one of his officers, to deliver up to the officer, authorized by his Britannic Majeſty, the port and fort called Egmont; with all the artillery, ſtores and effects of his Britannic Majeſty, and his ſubjects which were at that place, the day above-named; agreeable to the inventory which has been made of them.”

“ The

A. D. 1771 "The Prince de Maſerano declares at the ſame time, in the name of the King his maſter, that the engagement of his ſaid Catholic Majeſty, to reſtore to his Britannic Majeſty, the poſſeſſion of the fort and port called Egmont, cannot, nor ought, any wiſe, to affect the queſtion of the prior right of ſovereignty of the Malouine Iſlands, otherwiſe called Falkland's Iſlands. In witneſs whereof, I, the underwritten, ambaſſador extraordinary, have ſigned the preſent declaration with my uſual ſignature, and cauſed it to be ſealed with our arms. London, the 22d day of January, 1771.

"(Signed) LE PRINCE DE MASERANO, (L. S.)"

The Earl of Rochford's acceptance, dated the 22d day of January, 1771, of the Prince de Maſerano's declaration of the ſame date.

"His Catholic Majeſty having authoriſed the Prince de Maſerano, his ambaſſador extraordinary, to offer, in his Majeſty's name, to the King of Great Britain, a ſatisfaction for the injury done to his Britannic Majeſty, by diſpoſſeſſing him of the port and fort of Egmont; and the ſaid ambaſſador having this day ſigned a declaration, which he has juſtly delivered to me, expreſſing therein, that his Catholic Majeſty, being deſirous to reſtore the good harmony and friendſhip which before ſubſiſted between the two crowns, does diſavow the expedition againſt Port Egmont, in which force has been uſed againſt his Britannic Majeſty's poſſeſſions, commander, and ſubjects; and does alſo engage, that all things ſhall be immediately reſtored to the preciſe ſituation in which they ſtood before the 10th of June, 1770. And that his Catholic Majeſty ſhall give orders, in conſequence, to one of his officers, to deliver up to the officer, authorized by his Britannic Majeſty, the port and fort of Port Egmont, as alſo all his Britannic Majeſty's artillery, ſtores, and effects, as well as thoſe of his ſubjects, according to the inventory which has been made of them. And the ſaid ambaſſador having moreover engaged, in his Catholic Majeſty's name, that what is contained in the ſaid declaration ſhall be carried into effect by his ſaid Catholic Majeſty; and that duplicates of his Catholic Majeſty's orders to his officers ſhall be delivered into the hands of one of his Britannic Majeſty's principal ſecretaries of ſtate within ſix weeks: his ſaid Britannic Majeſty, in order to ſhew the ſame friendly diſpoſitions on his part, has authoriſed me to declare, that he will look upon the ſaid declaration of Prince de Maſerano, together with the full performance of the ſaid engagement, on the part of his Catholic Majeſty, as a ſatisfaction for the injury done to the crown of Great Britain. In witneſs whereof, I, underwritten, one of his Britannic Majeſty's principal ſecretaries of ſtate, have ſigned theſe preſents with my uſual ſignature, and cauſed them to be ſealed with our arms. London, the 22d day of January, 1771.

"(Signed) ROCHFORD, (L. S.)"

His Catholic Majeſty's orders, ſignified by the Balio Fray Don Julian de Arriaga, to Don Philip Ruez Puente, dated Pardo, 7th of February, 1771.

"It being agreed between the King and his Britannic Majeſty, by a convention ſigned at London on the 22d of January laſt paſt, by the Prince de Maſerano and the Earl of Rochford, that the Great Malouine, called by the Engliſh Falkland's Iſland, ſhould be immediately replaced in the preciſe ſituation in which it was before it was evacuated by them on the 10th of June laſt year; I ſignify to you, by the King's orders, that as ſoon as the perſon commiſſioned by the court of London ſhall preſent himſelf to you with this, you order the delivery of the port de la Cruizada or Egmont, and its fort and dependencies, to be effected; as alſo that of all the artillery, ammunition, and effects, that were found there, belonging to his Britannic Majeſty and his ſubjects, according to the inventories ſigned by George Farmer and William

A. D.
1771 Maltby, Eſqrs. on the 11th of July of the ſaid year, at the time of their quitting the ſame, of which I ſend you the encloſed copies, authenticated under my hand; and that as ſoon as the one and the other ſhall be effected, with the due formalities, you cauſe to retire immediately the officer, and other ſubjects of the King, which may be there. God preſerve you many years. (Signed)

" *Pardo, February 7, 1771.* *The Balio Fray Don Julian de Arriaga.*

" To Don Philip Ruez Puente."

Commodore Byron repreſented theſe iſlands in a very favourable point of view; this account is confirmed by the French, who ſpeak highly of the climate, ſoil, &c. But the Britiſh officer who ſucceeded Mr. Byron gives a very different hiſtory, in which he is ſeconded by Mr. Thomas Falkner, an Engliſh Jeſuit of Buenos Ayres, who, on account of his geographical knowledge, was ſent to make a chart of the ſea coaſt from the river of Plata to the Magellanic Streights, and in this voyage was for ſome time on theſe iſlands. He ſpeaks of them as poſſeſſing no one interior circumſtance, to induce any nation to form a colony on them. Theſe latter accounts are more fully juſtified by the conduct of Great Britain, who has ſince ſilently abandoned them.

The apprehenſion, at this time, that a rupture might take place between Great Britain and the Houſe of Bourbon on account of the Falkland's Iſlands, did not, perhaps, a little contribute to the inflexibility of the colonies, which ſeemed rather to increaſe, in proportion to the conceſſions made by Parliament to them.

Thus they continued to encourage their own manufactures and to diſcourage thoſe of Great Britain, as far as it was practicable in a country that could not flouriſh without importing a conſiderable number of the moſt eſſential articles requiſite for the moſt neceſſary branches of buſineſs, and could not procure them any where ſo well made and on ſuch advantageous terms as from Great Britain. Neceſſity, therefore, compelled them to relax, by degrees, the reſolutions of their former agreements of non-importation, ſo that the general intercourſe in commercial matters proceeded in its uſual channel, without any material interruption.

But the political intercourſe was attended every where with violent diſſentions; governors were embroiled in continual diſputes with their provincial aſſemblies. At Boſton, the reſiſtance to the revenue officers had been accompanied with great inhumanity; and the General Aſſembly of Maſſachuſets did not heſitate openly to notify to the governor, that they knew of no cuſtoms or revenue his Majeſty had a right to eſtabliſh there.

Account of the cloths manufactured each year in the Weſt Riding of the county of York, from 1749 to 1770; both incluſive.

Years.	*Broad Cloths.*	*Narrow Cloths.*		*Years.*	*Broad Cloths.*	*Narrow Cloths.*
1749	60,705½	68,889	—	1760	49,362½	69,573
1750	60,447½	78,115	—	1761	48,944	75,468
1751	60,964	74,022	—	1762	48,621	72,946
1752	60,724	72,442	—	1763	48,038½	72,096
1753	55,358	71,618	—	1764	54,916	79,458
1754	56,070½	72,394	—	1765	54,660	77,419
1755	57,125	76,295	—	1766	72,575½	78,893
1756	33,590½	79,318	—	1767	102,428	78,819
1757	55,777	77,097	—	1768	90,036	74,480
1758	60,396	66,396	—	1769	92,522	87,762
1759	51,877½	65,513	—	1770	93,074	85,376

A. D. 1771 Number of broad cloths milled each year at the ſeveral fulling mills in the Weſt Riding of the county of York, from the commencement of the act, viz. from June, 1725, to the 12th of March; nine months; and of narrow cloths, from the commencement of the act, viz. from the 1ſt of Auguſt, 1737, to the 20th of January, 1738, being ſix months and twenty days, and from that time yearly.

From June 1725	*Broads.*		*Years.*	*Broads.*	*Narrows.*
To March 1726	26,671	—	1738	42,404	14,495
1727	28,990	—	1739	43,086½	58,848
1728	25,223½	—	1740	41,441	58,620
1729	29,643½	—	1741	46,364	61,196
1730	31,579½	—	1742	44,954	62,804
1731	33,563	—	1743	45,178½	63,545
1732	35,548½	—	1744	54,627½	63,065
1733	34,620	—	1745	50,453	63,423
1734	31,123	—	1746	56,637	68,775
1735	31,744½	—	1747	62,480	68,374
1736	38,899	—	1748	60,765	68,080
1737	42,256				

Number of yards (pieces being now of different lengths) of broad and narrow cloths made in the years ending at Pontefract ſeſſions, 1769 and 1770.

Years.	*Broads.*	*Narrows.*
1769	2,771,667¾	2,144,019
1770	2,717,105	2,255,625

The following ſtate of the export linen and linen yarn trade of Ireland, for ſeventy years, ſhews its vaſt improvement within that period.

Years.	*Yarn.*	*Linen.*	*Total Amount.*
1701	39,000	14,000	53,000
1711	44,000	78,000	122,000
1721	88,000	126,000	214,000
1731	84,000	220,000	304,000
1741	129,000	480,000	509,000
1751	142,000	751,000	893,000
1761	238,999	803,000	1,041,999
1771	204,000	1,691,000	1,895,000

It appears by the export entries at the cuſtom-houſe at Dublin, whence this account was taken, that the linen trade alone has decreaſed 5,000,000 of yards, of the invoice value of 350,000l. in the year 1772; and by the beſt eſtimate that could be formed of the exports from March 1772 to March 1773, they were ſuppoſed to have further decreaſed one-third, which would bring them under 900,000l. ſo that the exports of linen and yarn taken together, will fall ſhort of 1,100,000; little more than one half of their amount in the year 1771.

A. D. 1771. The following is an account of the total quantities of Britiſh and Iriſh linens exported from England, from the commencement of the bounty to January 1772, diſtinguiſhing the quantities and bounties paid each year.

	Britiſh Linens.	*Iriſh Linens.*	*Bounties Paid.*		
Years.	*Yards.*	*Yards.*	*or Payable.*		
1743	52,779	40,907	383	10	8
1744	49,521	28,255	311	7	9
1745	56,240	101,928	747	17	6
1746	175,928	695,002	4,188	10	9
1747	238,014	595,277	4,290	12	0
1748	330,747	723,663	5,594	1	10
1749	414,834	965,897	8,615	1	4
1750	588,874	742,032	8,308	16	8
1751	527,976	854,490	8,617	8	2
1752	437,277	968,319	8,775	13	10
1753	641,510	1,039,967	10,058	16	5
1754	1,382,796	843,973	13,905	7	11
1755	41,367	51,040	577	11	0
1756	394,746	719,135	6,932	11	8
1757	1,016,754	2,055,575	18,847	3	8
1758	1,942,667	2,171,109	25,690	15	4
1759	1,693,087	1,956,572	22,807	11	1
1760	1,413,602	2,352,585	23,538	13	1
1761	1,272,985	1,819,329	19,324	11	3
1762	1,762,643	2,930,476	29,331	19	10
1763	2,308,310	2,588,564	30,604	6	9
1764	2,134,733	1,858,780	24,863	9	3
1765	2,095,933	1,663,670	23,497	10	4
1766	2,236,086	1,770,634	25,042	0	0
1767	2,444,181	2,227,124	29,182	6	11
1768	2,687,457	2,270,160	30,985	2	1
1769	3,056,950	1,855,159	30,699	3	5
1770	3,216,506	2,707,482	36,972	18	4
1771	4,411,040	3,450,224	44,738	8	10

Extract from the accounts of the linen ſtamped in the following years in Scotland, as atteſted at the linen hall eſtabliſhed by the Board of Truſtees at Edinburgh, inſtituted in the year 1727.

Years.	*Yards.*	*Value.*
		£.
1727 to 1728	2,183,978	103,312
1747 to 1748	6,661,788	262,866
1757 to 1758	9,764,408	401,511
1767 to 1768	13,224,557	637,346

A. D. 1771 An authentic account of the total quantities of foreign linens imported into England in the following years, converted into Britiſh yards, and the duties paid thereon.

Years	1762	*Yards*	18,827,853¼		£.134,031	14	1
——	1763	——	26,634,851	—	185,476	19	4
——	1764	——	28,092,215¾	—	201,711	3	7
——	1765	——	25,497,795¾	—	182,997	0	11
——	1766	——	25,624,107½	—	184,657	1	2
——	1767	——	21,054,411	—	164,532	8	10
——	1768	——	23,112,349	—	199,467	0	10
——	1769	——	25,431,162¼	—	217,386	9	0
——	1770	——	27,101,343¼	—	221,333	8	9
——	1771	——	28,243,121¾	—	230,951	14	2

A ſummary view of the judgment of different dealers in the different counties of Great Britain, according to a number of years, reſpecting the proportionate decreaſe of oak timber.

Perſons.	*Counties,* &c.	*Years.*	*Decreaſe.*
Wood & Palmer	Whitehaven, in the north,	40	Seven-eighths.
Okil,	Lancaſhire, Cheſhire, North Wales,	50	Three-fourths.
Galightly,	Lancaſh. Cheſh. Shropſh. Staff. Wales,	50	Seven-tenths.
Yoxal,	Cheſhire, —— ——	30	One-half.
Walford,	Shropſhire, ——	30	Four-fifths.
Bridge,	Caernarv. Denbighſh. Merion. Flintſh.	15	Two-thirds.
Moſtin, Eſq.	In Denbighſhire, advertiſed for ſale,	1	One-third.
James,	Caermarthenſh. Pembrokeſh. Cardiganſh.	30	Nine-tenths.
Morgan,	Caermarthenſhire, &c.	13	Seven-eighths.
Lomax,	Brecknockſhire, ——	30	Two-thirds.
Moore,	Worceſt. Glouceſterſh. Herefordſh. Monm.	40	Four-fifths.
Smith,	Worceſterſhire, Warwickſhire,	40	Four-fifths.
Rooke,	Devonſh. Dorſetſh. Somerſetſh. Cornwall,	40	Four-fifths.
	Hants, Surry, Kent, Suſſex,	40	Nine-tenths.
Steele,	The ſouth parts, ——	40 to 50	Seven-eighths.
Chitty,	Timber counties in general,	40	Nine-tenths.
Dearſly,	Eſſex, &c. ——	14	Three-fourths.
Shields,	Yorkſhire, ——	40	Four-fifths.
White,	Hampſhire, ——	40	Three-fourths.
Morris,	Surry, &c. —— ——	20	Three-fourths.
Martin,	Newport, Greenock, Ayre, Dumfries,	21	No ſupply.
Miller,	River Clyde, Port Glaſgow,	17	No ſupply.
Palmer,	Shropſhire, Montgomeryſhire,	*Several*	Great conſumption.
H. Williams,	Pembrokeſhire, ——	*Always*	Great deſtruction.
W. Williams,	Glamor. Monm. Gloucef. Heref. Shropſh.	15	alm. intire deſtruction.
Matthews,	Briſtol, — —	10	Not ¼th of the choice.
Andrews,	Plymouth, — —	30	Decr. very conſiderable
Bird,	London, all round, —		Very little remaining.
Goldſworth,	General, — —	in 19	Price from 3l. to 4l. 5s.
Mills,	Surry, Kent, Suſſex, —	40	Almoſt all taken down
Sir J. Philips,	Pembrokeſhire, ——		Alm. intirely cut down

1771 An account of the progreſſive increaſe of the revenue of the poſt-office, for 100 years.

In 1644, Mr. Edmund Prideaux, who was inland poſt-maſter, was ſuppoſed to collect about 5,000l. per annum.

In 1654, the Parliament farmed the poſts to Mr. Manley, at 10,000l.

In 1664, Daniel O'Neal, Eſq. farmed them at 21,500l.

In 1674, they were let out at 43,000l.

In 1685, the groſs was eſtimated at 65,000l.

In 1688, the poſts amount was 76,318l.

In 1697, it was, according to Dr. Davenant, 90,505l.

In 1710, they were 111,461l.

In 1715, the groſs amount of the inland office came to 145,227l.

In 1744, the ſame amounted to 198,226l.

[But the total groſs amount of both inland and foreign offices, which can alone demonſtrate the extent of our correſpondence, was that year 235,492l.]

In 1764, the groſs amount was 432,048l.

During the year 1771, the Dutch employed 120 ſhips in the Greenland trade, which brought home 500 whales, and 14,320 barrels of oil.—Three of their ſhips caught 15 whales, an foundered with them.

In the courſe of this year, 4,653 ſhips were cleared at the cuſtom-houſe, Newcaſtle; of which 4,211 were coaſters, and 442 for foreign parts:

And 1,794 veſſels entered the Texel.

The following are the only bills relating to trade and commerce which received the royal aſſent in this ſeſſion:—

A bill to prevent counterfeiting the copper coin of the realm.

For repairing, amending, and ſupporting the ſeveral harbours and ſea-ports in the iſle of Man.

For prohibiting the importation of foreign wrought ſilks and velvets, for a further limited time, and to prevent the unlawful combination of workmen employed in that trade.

For prohibiting, for a limited time, the exportation of live cattle, and freſh proviſions.

For continuing the bounty on the tonnage of ſhipping employed in the Greenland whale-fiſhery.

Supplies granted by Parliament for the year 1771:

For 40,000 ſeamen, including 8,073 marines,	2,080,000	0	0
For the ordinary of the navy,	378,752	18	7
For building and repairs of ſhips, &c.	423,747	0	0
For 23.432 effective troops,	720,629	12	3
For maintaining forces and garriſons in the plantations, Minorca, Gibraltar, &c.	479,170	1	11½
For defraying the difference between the Britiſh and Iriſh eſtabliſhments of certain troops,	4,533	12	8
For the office of ordnance for the land ſervice,	259,074	16	11
For the ſervices of ditto, for ditto, not provided for by Parliament, in 1770,	35,443	0	7
Carried over,	£. 4,381,351	2	11½

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	£.	s.	d.
Brought over,	4,381,351	2	11½
Towards enabling the commiſſioners to build a bridge acroſs the river Thames, from the city of Weſtminſter to the oppoſite ſhore, and to maintain the ſaid bridge, &c.	2,000	0	0
For the general and ſtaff-officers in Great Britain,	11,291	8	6½
For penſions to widows of certain reduced officers,	664	0	0
On account of reduced officers of his Majeſty's forces, &c.	117,858	10	0
For allowances to the ſeveral officers and private gentlemen of the two reduced troops of horſe-guards, &c.	1,277	15	5
For one year's full pay to certain reduced officers,	2,962	11	8
On account of the civil eſtabliſhment of Nova Scotia,	5,796	10	5
Ditto of Georgia,	3,086	0	0
Ditto of Eaſt Florida,	4,350	0	0
Ditto of Weſt Florida,	6,100	0	0
For general ſurveys in North America,	1,885	4	0
Towards extraordinaries of the army, &c.	359,927	0	7½
On account of the out-penſioners of Chelſea Hoſpital,	112,005	0	0
For paying off and diſcharging certain Exchequer bills, &c.	1,800,000	0	0
To the Foundling Hoſpital,	2,970	0	0
To ditto,	27,030	0	0
Towards diſcharging the debt of the navy,	200,000	0	0
To replace to the ſinking fund the like ſum paid out of the ſame, to make good certain deficiencies,	35,085	2	11
To make good to his Majeſty the like ſum, iſſued in purſuance of the addreſſes of the Houſe of Commons,	14,700	0	0
To make good the like ſum paid to ſeveral perſons, as compenſations for certain loſſes ſuſtained, &c.	799	12	2
On account of the civil eſtabliſhment of Senegambia,	6,336	0	9½
To the Levant Company, to aſſiſt them in carrying on their trade,	5,000	0	0
For repairing, maintaining, &c. the Britiſh forts and ſettlements on the coaſt of Africa,	13,000	0	0
For the more effectually repairing the fort of Cape Coaſt Caſtle, on the coaſt of Africa,	2,000	0	0
On account of new roads and bridges in the Highlands of North Britain,	6,928	2	0
To enable his Majeſty to make good to the Eaſt India Company the expences incurred by the ſaid Company in the expedition to Manilla,	28,365	15	8
For reimburſing to the province of New Hampſhire, their expences in furniſhing proviſions, &c. to the troops raiſed by them for his Majeſty's ſervice, for the campaign of 1756,	6,009	13	3
Total of Supplies,	7,160,779	10	5

WAYS

1771

Ways and Means for this year :—	£.	s.	d.
Malt-tax,	700,000	0	0
The land-tax, (at 4s.)	2,037,854	19	11
By Exchequer bills,	1,800,000	0	0
Lottery,	200,000	0	0
From the ſinking fund,	691,977	7	9
From ditto,	1,650,000	0	0
The ſurplus of grants for certain ſervices,	89,658	16	$9\frac{1}{4}$
The Eaſt India Company,	400,000	0	0
Out of ſuch monies as have been granted for protecting, &c. the Britiſh colonies and plantations,	20,000	0	0
The ſurplus of the two-ſevenths of the exciſe, granted for certain purpoſes,	30,291	11	$3\frac{3}{4}$
The ſurplus in the Exchequer for the diſpoſition of Parliament, over and above the ſurplus of the ſinking fund remaining for the ſame purpoſe,	20,000	1	$6\frac{1}{2}$
Total of ways and means,	7,639,782	17	$3\frac{1}{2}$
Supply granted,	7,160,779	10	5
Exceſs of proviſions,	£. 479,003	6	$10\frac{1}{2}$

☞ The charge of the pay and cloathing of the militia in England for one year, beginning March 25, 1771, was voted to be defrayed out of the monies ariſing by the land tax, granted for the ſervice of the year 1771.

Additional duties, regulation of duties, and bounties in this year.

An additional number of hackney-coaches were licenſed, not to exceed 300; and the new licences were extended to all places within the cities of London and Weſtminſter, and the limits of the weekly bills of mortality: and for which a rent of 5s. a week was charged, during the continuance of ſuch licence.

The term for the bounty on veſſels built for the white-herring-fiſhery expiring this year, it was voted to give a bounty of 30s. per ton to all veſſels, from 28 to 80 tons, which have been built ſince the year 1760, or ſhould hereafter be built, for the purpoſe of the white-herring fiſheries, and ſhould be actually employed therein.

A bounty was continued on the ſhips employed in the whale-fiſhery to Greenland, Davis's Straits, and places adjacent, for a limited time: and after the expiration of the exiſting bounties, 40s. per ton was granted on all ſhips employed in the ſaid fiſhery, for the term of five years; 30s. per ton for a ſecond term of five years; and after the expiration of the ſecond term, a bounty of 20s. per ton for an additional five years, ending with the ſeſſion of Parliament.

All the duties payable on account of the harbours of the Iſle of Man, were ordered to ceaſe and determine; and the following duties were ſubſtituted in lieu thereof:—

Three-halfpence per ton on all veſſels, not being laden, or in ballaſt, belonging to any of his Majeſty's ſubjects, which ſhall arrive or put into any of the harbours in the ſaid iſland; and 2d. for all foreign ſhips.

A duty

A duty of 2d. per ton on all Britiſh veſſels, being laden, or having any cargo on board, whether they ſhould break bulk, or deliver any part of their cargo, or not; and 3d. upon foreign ſhips.

An additional duty of 1d. per ton upon all Britiſh veſſels which ſhould be repaired in any of the harbours in the ſaid iſland; and 2d. for all foreign ſhips.

An additional duty of 2d. per ton on all foreign veſſels which ſhould break bulk, and deliver any part of their cargo.

A duty of 2s. 6d. upon every foreign ſhip anchoring in any of the bays of the ſaid iſland.

A duty of 2s. 6d. per ton upon all ſpirits; 1s. 6d. per hogſhead upon tobacco; 2s. per hundred-weight upon teas; 1s. per hundred-weight upon coffee; and 2s. 6d. per tun upon all wines, imported into the ſaid iſland.

A duty of 2d. per chaldron was alſo laid upon all coals imported into the ſaid iſland, to be reckoned according to the coquet at the port of exportation.

A duty, after the rate of 10s. per cent. *ad valorem*, was laid upon all foreign goods; wines, ſpirits, and ſalt excepted: and 5s. upon other goods, imported from Great Britain or Ireland, (except licenſed goods and ſalt for the fiſheries, of above the value of 5l.) into the ſaid iſland.

A duty of 3d. per quarter was laid upon all corn and grain; and 1d. per hundred-weight upon all meal and flour imported into, or exported from the ſaid iſland.

A duty of 6d. per head was likewiſe laid upon all horſes and black cattle imported into, or exported from the ſaid iſland.—The ſaid rates, duties, and impoſitions, were directed to be applied, from time to time, towards amending, repairing, and ſupporting, the ſeveral harbours and ſea-ports in the ſaid iſland.

The following bounties were reſolved to be allowed upon the importation of white-oak ſtaves and heading, from the plantations in America, viz.

A bounty of 6l. for every 1,200 pipe ſtaves, each ſtave not being leſs than five feet ſix inches long, from four inches and a half, to ſix inches broad, and two inches thick at the thinneſt edge, which ſhould be imported from the 1ſt of January, 1772, to the 1ſt of January, 1775, and in the like proportion for any greater or leſs number.

Six pounds for every 1800 of hogſhead ſtaves; each ſtave not being leſs than four feet ſix inches long, from four inches and a half, to ſix inches broad, and one inch and a half thick at the thinneſt edge, which ſhould be ſo imported.

Six pounds for every 2,400 barrel ſtaves; each ſtave being from three feet ſix inches, to three feet eight inches in length, from four to five inches broad, and one inch and a half thick at the thinneſt edge, which ſhould be imported as aforeſaid.

Six pounds for every 3,600 pieces of pipe, hogſhead, and barrel heading; each piece of pipe heading being two feet eight inches long; hogſhead heading, two feet four inches; and barrel heading, two feet one inch long, at the leaſt; and each ſuch reſpective piece of heading from five to ſix inches broad, and two inches thick at the thinneſt edge, which ſhould be ſo imported.—Each hundred to contain ſix-ſcore.

A bounty of four pounds was alſo granted for every 1,200 of ſuch pipe ſtaves, 1,800 hogſhead ſtaves, 2,400 barrel ſtaves, and for every 3,600 pieces of heading as before deſcribed, which ſhould be imported from the 1ſt of January, 1775, to the 1ſt of January, 1778: and 2l. for every ſuch quantity of pipe, hogſhead, and barrel ſtaves, and pieces of heading, as before deſcribed, which ſhould be imported from the 1ſt of January, 1778, to the 1ſt of January, 1781.—Theſe bounties were ordered to be paid out of his Majeſty's cuſtoms.

IMPORTS and EXPORTS, from Christmas 1770, to Christmas 1771.

Countries.	*Imports.*			*Exports.*		
Africa,	£. 97,486	19	3	712,538	7	4
Canaries,	6,803	18	10	23,825	9	8
Denmark and Norway,	83,711	6	4	152,340	0	5
Eaſt Country,	195,357	0	2	95,961	19	11
Eaſt India,	1,882,139	5	9	1,184,824	13	11
Flanders,	142,138	2	6	861,777	16	7
France,	51,645	8	11	146,128	3	2
Germany,	765,774	2	0	1,316,492	1	4
Greenland,	13,803	5	10	10	6	3
Holland,	428,080	1	7	1,685,397	16	0
Ireland,	1,380,737	14	11	1,983,818	17	6
Italy,	947,138	12	8	782,582	15	7
Madeiras,	2,067	18	2	11,213	17	9
Portugal,	354,631	10	7	716,122	3	5
Ruſſia,	1,274,620	12	0	150,159	16	6
Spain,	568,323	11	3	1,224,811	11	10
Streights,	3,604	13	6	153,323	16	11
Sweden,	157,851	10	1	64,180	0	1
Turkey,	100,443	2	9	20,573	15	3
Venice,	83,335	0	2	73,956	18	1
Alderney,	95	13	8	1,125	12	9
Guernſey,	38,103	7	6	34,541	0	1
Jerſey,	18,603	12	9	22,898	14	6
Canada,	37,286	12	8	170,962	8	11
Carolina,	420,311	14	8	409,169	9	4
Cape Breton,	14	9	5			
Florida,	21,856	11	11	66,647	9	11
Georgia,	63,810	10	9	70,493	19	3
Hudſon's Bay,	9,225	18	0	5,822	1	8
New England,	150,381	17	2	1,420,119	1	1
Newfoundland,	49,424	18	8	89,394	1	7
New Providence,	7,837	3	3			
New York,	95,875	8	11	653,621	7	6
Nova Scotia,	3,451	14	3	51,581	12	8
Pennſylvania,	31,615	19	9	728,744	19	10
Virginia and Maryland,	577,848	16	6	920,326	3	8
Antigua,	180,923	3	0	118,152	10	11
Barbadoes,	163,053	1	4	120,011	0	3
Bermudas,	836	8	3	8,645	15	9
Dominica,	170,623	19	3	55,612	2	3
Grenades,	361,839	10	7	138,431	6	6
Jamaica,	1,261,675	7	9	494,888	0	10
Montſerrat,	63,034	4	8	15,642	0	6
Nevis,	67,291	3	2	19,751	7	1
St. Croix,	4,685	16	2			
St. Euſtatia,	1,436	2	11			
St. Kitts,	268,276	16	8	95,442	17	10
St. Vincent,	123,919	4	5	35,200	1	11
Tobago,	7,091	2	7	28,610	14	11
Tortola,	41,466	4	1	20,969	5	0
St. Thomas,	447	7	1			
Spaniſh Weſt Indies Hudſon's Bay,	39,988	0	9	4,301	0	2
Totals,	12,822,025	19	9	17,161,146	14	2
Exports exceed the Imports,	4,339,120	14	5			

Extract

1771 Extract from the general bill of chriſtenings and burials within the bills of mortality in London, from December 11, 1770, to December 10, 1771.

Chriſtened, Males,	8,839	Buried, Males,	10,921
Females,	8,233	Females,	10,859
	17,072		21,780

The births, deaths, and marriages, for this year, in the following cities, &c. were as follow:

Paris,—births, 20,685; deaths, 18,941; marriages, 4,452; foundlings, 7,156.

Amſterdam,—baptiſms in the ſeveral reformed churches, 4,707; deaths, 7,983.

Rotterdam,—deaths, 1,702.

Copenhagen,—births, 2,657; deaths, 3,144.

Mancheſter and Salford,—chriſtened, 1,169; burials, 993; marriages, 423.

1772 The ſpirit of reſiſtance continued to animate the American colonies.—In the month of June, in this year, one of the King's armed ſchooners, ſtationed at Providence, Rhode Iſland, to prevent ſmuggling, was ſeized and burned by the people of that colony: and in October following, the town meeting of Boſton remonſtrated to the governor, in terms of the greateſt aſperity, againſt the ſettling fixed ſalaries on the judges of the ſuperior court of judicature, in New England; and ſent circular letters, of a very inflammatory nature, to the other colonies on the occaſion.

His Majeſty had particularly recommended the affairs of the Eaſt India Company to the attention of Parliament, in his ſpeech from the throne, at the opening of the ſeſſion; nevertheleſs, it was ſo late as the 30th of March before this important buſineſs was taken up in the Houſe of Commons. The deputy chairman of the Eaſt India Company then moved for leave to bring in a bill for the better regulation of the Company's ſervants and concerns in India.—This bill was framed with a view to reſtrain the governor and council from all manner of trade, and to make a total alteration in the courts of judicature, and in the mode of adminiſtering juſtice in Bengal, as well as to enlarge the Company's powers with reſpect to its ſervants, and to lay additional reſtrictions upon them.

Though this bill was totally laid aſide at the ſecond reading, it produced very long and animated debates; and, in the courſe of them, it appeared very evident, that the conduct and affairs of the Company, as well as the tranſactions of its ſervants, demanded a very ſtrict enquiry, and wanted much regulation: nor were there wanting thoſe who ſuggeſted, on the occaſion, that, from the apparent inſufficiency of the Company for ſuch an important taſk, government ſhould take the whole of their territorial dominions under its own immediate juriſdiction. A bill therefore was brought, which paſſed into an act for the appointment of a ſelect committee of 31 members, to enquire into the nature and ſtate of the Eaſt India Company, and of their affairs in the Eaſt Indies: and as the ſubject of their inquiſition was ſo various, as well as of ſuch great extent, they were obliged to apply for leave to continue their ſittings during the ſummer ſeaſon.

The precarious ſituation of affairs in India,—the late diſtreſſes of the natives,—the depopulation of the country,—the oppreſſive and arbitrary conduct of the Company's ſervants,—the great decreaſe of the net revenues of Bengal, from various miſmanagements, as well as enormous and unneceſſary expences, and the immenſe conſequence to this nation of preſerving and well governing our poſſeſſions in India, were the conſiderations that induced Parliament to adopt this regulating law.

A. D. 1772 The great encouragement given at this time to the breed of horſes, ſeems to have checked that of ſheep and black cattle; and, conſequently raiſed the price of butcher's-meat: as it appears, from the following table, that the increaſe of cattle, &c. was by no means proportionate to the augmenting population of the metropolis.

A TABLE, ſhewing the number of ſheep and black cattle ſold at Smithfield, for 40 years:—

From Michaelmas	*Sheep.*	*Average.*	*Black Cattle.*	*Average.*
1730 to 1731	480,010		8,304	
1732	537,250		87,571	
1733	588,310		95,301	
1734	597,920		94,473	
1735	636,740	—568,060	102,628	—93,653
1736	617,720		100,602	
1737	637,190		100,686	
1738	615,000		96,762	
1739	598,000		96,404	
1740	527,420	—599,466	93,285	—97,548
1741	555,480		85,245	
1742	518,700		86,913	
1743	479,030		85,682	
1744	513,320		87,441	
1745	589,140	—531,134	84,179	—85,892
1746	648,350		83,149	
1747	646,930		81,988	
1748	634,750		76,060	
1749	666,900		83,357	
1750	680,650	—655,516	79,836	—80,878
1751	673,650		79,983	
1752	688,970		81,847	
1753	686,810		83,677	
1754	669,000		77,605	
1755	684,570	—610,618	81,106	—80,843
1756	653,220		83,266	
1757	594,260		89,776	
1758	571,660		90,559	
1759	610,870		96,082	
1760	653,740	—616,750	98,813	—91,699
1761	718,060	¾ths of a year.	90,232	¾ths of a year.
1762	842,030	a year and ¼th	121,175	a year and ¼th.
1763	964,190		90,991	
1764	581,440		80,299	
1765	547,300	—730,608	84,702	—93,480
1766	587,520		78,387	
1767	588,730		81,035	
1768	655,920		84,855	
1769	665,240		85,862	
1770	666,650	—632,812	90,979	—84,244

The

A. D. 1772

The inefficacy of the temporary corn-bills which had been paſſed in every ſeſſion for ſome years back, had occaſioned the forming a committee in the laſt ſeſſion, for examining into and conſidering the whole ſtate of the corn, and of the corn laws, and for framing ſuch regulations thereon, as might be the baſis of a comprehenſive and permanent law, which ſhould apply to all poſſible caſes, with reſpect to exportation, importation, prices, and bounties, and thereby ſuperſede the neceſſity of temporary and imperfect regulations. Several reſolutions were then approved of and paſſed upon this ſubject, and the lateneſs of the ſeaſon only prevented its being carried further. A bill, therefore, was brought in upon the ſame principles, and paſſed through the Houſe of Commons; but being returned, with ſome alterations, by the Lords, the Commons, conſidering it as a money bill, and therefore not to be altered by the other Houſe, threw it out with extraordinary marks of contempt.

From the various articles of information which the diſcuſſion of the corn buſineſs produced at this time, we have ſelected the following tables.

Prices of grain per quarter at Bear-Key and Mark-Lane, for 15 ſucceſſive years:—

YEARS.	WHEAT.	BARLEY.	OATS.	
Jan.	*s.* *s.*	*s.* *s.*	*s.* *s.*	*d.*
1742	26 to 29	15 to 20	12 to 15	
1743	20 — 23	15 — 20	13 — 16	
1744	19 — 21	11 — 13	9 — 12	
1745	18 — 20	12 — 15	12 — 16	
1746	17 — 24	10 — 13	12 — 14	
1747	27 — 30	8 — 12	7 — 11	
1748	26 — 28	13 — 14	9 — 12	
1749	27 — 32	17 — 18	14 — 16	
1750	24 — 27	14 — 17	12 — 13	
1751	24 — 27	14 — 17	12 — 13	
1752	20 — 25	10 — 13	9 — 11	
1753	29 — 35	17 — 18	10 — 12	
1754	27 — 33	17 — 19	12 — 13	
1755	24 — 26	12 — 14	10 — 13	
1756	22 — 26	14 — 15	12 — 13	6

A table of the corn exported from England during five years, diſtinguiſhing the ſpecies thereof, with the bounties payable thereon, laid before Parliament.

	GROSS AMOUNT OF CORN EXPORTED.					EXPORTED FOR BOUNTY.		
Years.	*Barley.*	*Malt.*	*Oatmeal.*	*Rye.*	*Wheat.*		*Quantity.*	*Bounty.*
	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.		Qrs.	£.
1744	20,090	219,862	1,657	74,169	231,984	Barley,	449,289	56,159
1745	95,878	219,354	9,770	83,966	324,839	Malt,	1,426,264	184,195
1746	158,719	282,024	20,203	45,782	130,646	Oatmeal,	37,366	4,668
1747	103,140	361,280	2,122	92,718	266,906	Rye,	399,883	69,977
1748	73,857	349,363	3,768	103,891	543,387	Wheat,	1,455,642	363,908
Totals	451,684	1,431,883	37,520	400,526	1,497,762	Totals,	3,768,444	678,907

☞ The difference between the quantity of corn exported, and of corn exported for bounty, is occaſioned by ſome exported to Alderney, Guernſey, Jerſey, &c. not entitled to bounty.

3

Theſe

1772 Theſe great exports were principally from the ports of London, Ipſwich, Yarmouth, Lynn Regis, Hull, Briſtol, Southampton, Cowes, Chicheſter, Shoreham, and thoſe of Wales, the chief countries exported to were, Holland, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Portugal, and the Mediterranean: but France and Flanders, on account of the war, had not any tranſmitted, except a certain ſupply ſent to fill the French magazines, previous to the opening the laſt campaign of the exiſting war, which was the cauſe of that precipitate and ill-conſidered treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle.

The total exports of the above period of five years, being 3,768,444 quarters of different ſpecies of corn, may be ſuppoſed to have produced,

	£.
At 35s. per quarter, — —	6,594,777
At 40s. ———— — —	7,536,888
At 45s. ———— — —	8,478,999
At 50s. ———— — —	9,421,110

Or the medium of thoſe ſums, being 8,007,948l.; in either caſe it is an immenſe ſum to flow immediately from the produce of the earth, and the labour of the people, enriching our merchants, and increaſing an invaluable brood of ſeamen.

In the courſe of this year, 4,872 ſhips were cleared at the Cuſtom-houſe, Newcaſtle, of which 4,480 were coaſters, and 392 for foreign parts.

From December 5, 1771, to December 5, 1772, 6,680 veſſels paſſed the Sound, which were as follows:

Dutch, —	2,145	Hamburghers, —	32
Engliſh, —	1,894	Ruſſian, —	28
Daniſh, —	973	From Roſtock, —	21
Swedes, —	805	Imperial, —	13
Pruſſians, —	326	French, —	13
Dantzickers, —	211	Courlanders —	7
Bremeners, —	170	Spaniſh, —	2
Lubeckers, —	38	Portugueſe, —	2

The total number of which amounted to 6,680 veſſels.

The following bills, among many others, received the royal aſſent this year.

To continue and amend an act paſſed in the laſt ſeſſion, to prohibit the exportation of corn, &c.

To continue, for a further time, the act for the importation of ſalted proviſions, &c. from Ireland and the American colonies.

To diſcontinue the inland duty of 1s. per pound on Singlo and black teas, and for allowing a drawback on teas exported to Ireland and the Plantations.

For making a navigable canal from the river Dee, near Cheſter, to Nantwich.

For better preſerving his Majeſty's dock yards, ſhips, ſtores and ammunition.

To amend an act for maintaining and enlarging the harbour of Ramſgate and haven of Shoreham.

For embanking and preſerving certain fen and low grounds in Huntingdonſhire.

For deepening and preſerving the harbour of Ayr in Scotland.

For the more eaſy and ſpeedy recovery of ſmall debts in Scotland.

For allowing the importation of wheat, wheat flour, rye and rye meal, into this kingdom, for a limited time.

A. D. 1772 For allowing the free importation of rice into this kingdom, from any of his Majeſty's colonies in America.

For remedying the evils occaſioned by the laws now in being againſt engroſſers, foreſtallers and regrators.

For further encouraging the herring fiſhery on the coaſts of the Iſle of Man.

For more effectually preventing frauds in the revenue of exciſe, with reſpect to tea, ſoap, low wines and ſpirits.

To prevent frauds and abuſes relating to the trade carrying on between Great Britain and Ireland.

For more effectually preventing fraud in the ſtamp duties, upon vellum, parchment, paper and cards.

To continue and amend an act to prevent frauds committed by bankrupts.

For allowing a drawback on the exportation of tea to Ireland and his Majeſty's colonies in America.

For rendering the payment of the creditors of inſolvent debtors more equal and expeditious in Scotland.

For allowing the free importation of wheat, Indian corn, &c. for a limited time.

For allowing the free importation of wheat, barley, &c. from Africa or any part of Europe, for a limited time.

For the diſcontinuance of the duties on hog's lard and greaſe, and for the free importation of hams, bacon, and all ſorts of ſalt proviſions from any part of Europe for a limited time.

To allow the further importation of rice from America.

To reſtrain the Eaſt India Company from appointing ſuperviſors for a limited time.

For making a branch of the river Trent navigable.

SUPPLIES granted by Parliament for this year:—	£.	s.	d.
For 25,000 ſeamen, including 6,664 marines, —	1,300,000	0	0
For 17,547 land-forces, including 1,522 invalids, —	629,491	12	4¾
For maintaining forces and garriſons in the plantations and Africa, at Minorca, Gibraltar, &c. — — —	388,953	12	7¾
For the difference of pay between the Britiſh and Iriſh eſtabliſhments of five battalions and four companies of foot, &c. —	4,723	16	2¼
For the pay of the general and ſtaff-officers, &c. — —	11,322	7	3
For penſions to the widows of certain reduced officers, —	644	0	0
On account of the reduced officers of his Majeſty's land forces and marines, &c. — — — —	115,765	16	0
For allowances to ſeveral officers and private gentlemen of the two reduced troops of horſe-guards, &c. — —	1,281	0	6
For the charge of out-penſioners of Chelſea Hoſpital, &c. —	124,813	12	6
For the charge of the office of ordnance for the land ſervice, &c.	215,883	17	4
For ſervices performed by ditto for ditto, not provided for by Parliament in 1771, — — — —	32,498	6	3
For the ordinary of the navy, including half pay to ſea and marine officers, — — — —	394,725	17	6
Towards building and repairing ſhips, &c. and other extra works,	375,939	0	0
Carried forward,	3,596,042	18	6¾

	£.	s.	d.
Brought over,	3,596,042	18	6¾
On account of the civil eſtabliſhment of Nova Scotia,	5,346	10	5
Ditto of Georgia,	3,186	0	0
Ditto of Eaſt Florida,	4,950	0	0
Ditto of Weſt Florida,	5,650	0	0
Ditto of Senegambia,	6,336	0	9¾
On account of general ſurveys in North America,	1,885	4	0
To the truſtees of the Britiſh Muſeum,	2,000	0	0
To enable his Majeſty to purchaſe, for the uſe of the public, a collection of Etruſcan, Grecian, and Roman antiquities, brought from Italy by Sir William Hamilton, Knight of the Bath, to be veſted in the Truſtees of the Britiſh Muſeum,	8,410	0	0
To enable the truſtees of the Britiſh Muſeum to provide a repoſitory for the ſaid collection,	840	0	0
For paying off certain Exchequer bills,	1,800,000	0	0
To be employed in repairing, &c. Britiſh forts and ſettlements on the coaſt of Africa,	13,000	0	0
For more effectually repairing the fort of Cape Coaſt Caſtle in Africa,	2,400	0	0
To be applied towards encouraging diſcoveries towards the South Pole,	4,000	0	0
Towards defraying the extraordinaries of the army, &c.	274,432	4	7¾
On account of new roads and bridges in the Highlands of North Britain,	6,998	14	5
To replace to the ſinking fund the like ſum iſſued thereout to make good certain deficiencies, &c.	42,445	5	5
To the Levant Company, to be applied in aſſiſting the ſaid Company in carrying on their trade,	5,000	0	0
To make good to his Majeſty the like ſum iſſued by his Majeſty's orders, in purſuance of the addreſſes of the Houſe of Commons,	6,580	0	0
To make good to his Majeſty the like ſum, paid to certain perſons in North Britain, as a compenſation of certain loſſes ſuſtained, and expences incurred by them, for preventing the ſpreading of the infectious diſtemper amongſt the horned cattle,	294	3	11
To enable his Majeſty to make good the ſeveral ſums payable to the perſons who have ſubſcribed the capital ſtock of 3 per cent. annuities, to be diſcharged, &c.	1,350,000	0	0
To make good the deficiency of the grants for the ſervice of 1771,	39,456	0	10¾
To be paid to Charles Irving, for the diſcovery of an eaſy and practicable method of making ſea water freſh and wholeſome,	5,000	0	0
To enable his Majeſty to reward Daniel Peter Layard, Doctor of Phyſic, for his advice towards preventing the diſorder among the horned cattle,	500	0	0
To be paid as a compenſation to Edward Hill, for the loſs he will ſuſtain by diſcontinuing the uſe of peſtles in making gunpowder, &c.	1,500	0	0
Total,	7,186,253	3	1

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The Ways and Means for raiſing the foregoing ſupplies.	£.	s.	d.
Duty on malt,	750,000	0	0
Land tax at 3s.	1,500,000	0	0
Certain ſurpluſſes of the ſinking fund,	136,416	0	8½
Ditto,	55,192	6	11¾
By Exchequer bills,	1,800,000	0	0
By agreement with the Eaſt India Company,	400,000	0	0
Certain exceſſes of the ſinking fund,	805,398	13	2
By certain ſavings, &c.	138,090	5	10
Ditto	36,772	10	0
Ditto,	1,863	13	10
Ditto,	40,000	0	0
By a lottery,	150,000	0	0
From the ſinking fund,	1,856,723	1	2
Certain monies reſerved for the direction of Parliament,	20,000	0	0
The ſurpluſſes of certain deductions, &c.	21,710	0	0
A certain ſum in the Exchequer for the diſpoſition of Parliament,	10,426	9	3
Total of ways and means provided, &c.	7,722,593	0	11¼
Ditto of ſupplies granted, &c.	7,186,253	3	0
Exceſs of proviſions,	536,339	17	11¼

There were no extra duties or alteration of duties impoſed or made during this year.

A general ſtatement of the public debts at the receipt of the Exchequer, ſtanding out January 5, 1772, with the annual intereſt, &c.

	Principal Debt.			*Annual Intereſt*, &c.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
* Exchequer,	2,034,364	12	9½	153,066	4	8
Eaſt India Company,	4,200,000	0	0	127,687	10	0
Bank of England,	94,137,945	1	5¼	3,088,616	5	7
By remaining annuities of one life each, granted on the lotteries of 1745 and 1746.—Ditto on the 3 per cent. annuities of 1757 and 1761; as alſo on the annuities of 1 per cent. for 98 years to the ſubſcribers to the loan of 12,000,000l. granted for the ſervice of the year 1762, together with the charges of management to the Bank of England,				327,515	0	3
South Sea Company,	27,125,309	13	11½	829,507	8	2
Total,	127,497,619	8	2¼	4,526,392	8	8

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* The land taxes and duties on malt being annual grants, are not charged in this account, nor the 1,000,000l. charged on the deduction of 6d. per pound on penſions, nor the 1,800,000l. borrowed in 1771, charged on the ſupplies in 1772.

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IMPORTS and EXPORTS, from CHRISTMAS 1771, to CHRISTMAS 1772.

Countries.	*Imports.*			*Exports.*		
Africa,	92,338	12	0	866,394	11	3
Canaries,	12,773	10	7	32,539	7	3
Denmark and Norway,	85,521	17	2	161,972	14	3
Eaſt Country,	209,189	14	5	103,661	2	5
Eaſt India,	2,473,192	8	2	941,361	4	5
Flanders,	99,473	6	9	793,454	12	5
France,	54,948	11	5	290,989	16	1
Germany,	701,813	5	1	1,354,181	6	6
Greenland,	23,449	16	5	36	15	4
Holland,	324,901	8	8	1,997,815	1	4
Ireland,	1,242,305	18	5	1,963,787	4	0
Italy,	858,599	8	10	831,514	1	8
Madeiras,	3,330	3	8	12,107	2	2
Portugal,	347,373	11	2	635,114	4	2
Ruſſia,	1,008,948	11	5	139,470	15	5
Spain,	510,637	9	1	805,038	0	1
Streights,	13,902	15	1	141,729	8	7
Sweden,	187,826	15	2	54,698	12	9
Turkey,	154,052	8	3	96,823	4	4
Venice,	64,605	8	0	80,849	17	0
Alderney,	79	13	0	1,470	18	1
Guernſey,	31,845	1	7	31,564	10	3
Jerſey,	17,627	3	5	31,099	12	10
Canada,	47,995	4	4	203,779	5	6
Carolina,	425,923	1	1	449,610	2	2
Cape Breton,	255	8	7	121	6	9
Florida,	15,722	17	6	40,458	2	9
Georgia,	66,083	18	9	92,406	4	4
Hudſon's Bay,	8,005	17	1	6,381	2	9
New England,	126,265	7	6	824,830	8	9
Newfoundland,	67,625	2	11	107,822	14	0
New Providence,	5,817	18	9	1,564	0	9
New York,	82,707	8	6	343,970	19	9
Nova Scotia,	4,663	12	3	34,688	3	3
Pennſylvania,	29,133	12	3	507,909	14	0
Virginia and Maryland,	528,404	10	6	793,910	13	2
Antigua,	166,351	12	4	116,074	10	11
Barbadoes,	210,842	12	6	138,841	10	7
Bermudas,	525	2	10	11,798	14	6
Dominica,	215,667	7	1	60,526	14	2
Grenada,	492,974	5	3	191,774	18	9
Jamaica,	1,483,818	19	8	592,733	5	1
Montſerrat,	82,873	18	2	23,334	7	8
Nevis,	82,331	17	9	18,277	15	1
St. Croix,	24,947	18	0	118,914	4	9
St. Kitts,	302,952	2	0			
St. Euſtatia,	8,152	5	0			
St. Vincent,	155,182	18	0	38,361	18	10
Tobago,	19,718	19	8	36,797	4	10
Tortola,	58,111	9	5	30,586	0	11
Honduras Bay,	51,079	13	10	1,535	14	10
Muſquito Shore,	15,580	3	0	4,728	12	11
Totals,	13,298,452	2	3	16,159,412	14	4
Exports exceed the Imports,	2,860,960	12	1			

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1772 A general account of the chriſtenings and burials within the bills of mortality in London, from December 10, 1771, to December 15, 1772.

CHRISTENED.		BURIED.	
Males,	9,172	Males,	13,185
Females,	8,744	Females,	12,868
Total,	17,916	Total,	26,053

At Paris,—births, 18,713; deaths, 20,374; marriages, 4,611; foundlings received in the hoſpitals, 7676.

At Amſterdam,—deaths, 10,609; baptiſms in the ſeveral reformed churches, 4,637; marriages, 2,037.

At Copenhagen,—births, 2,604; deaths, 4,200; marriages, 745.

At Whitby,—deaths, 313; baptiſms, 229; marriages, 59.

1773 In the ſpeech from the Throne at the meeting of Parliament on the 26th of November, of the laſt year, it was obſerved, that the private convenience of the Members would have been conſulted by allowing a longer receſs from buſineſs, if ſome very important public ſervices had not required the immediate attention of Parliament. It then ſhewed how much the commerce and revenues of the nation, as well as the private rights and intereſts of numerous individuals were intereſted in the maintenance of the credit and proſperity of the Eaſt India Company; and that upon information of the difficulties in which that company appeared to be involved, it was determined to give them an early opportunity of informing themſelves fully of the true ſtate of their affairs, and of making ſuch proviſions for the common benefit and ſecurity of the various intereſts concerned, as ſhould be found beſt adapted to the exigencies of the caſe.

A motion was, therefore, made in the Houſe of Commons, that, for the better taking into conſideration the affairs of the company, a committee of ſecrecy, conſiſting of thirteen perſons, to be choſen by ballot, ſhould be appointed for that purpoſe; which paſſed, after ſome oppoſition, without a diviſion.

In little more than a week after its appointment, the preſident of this committee preſented a report on the affairs of the Eaſt India Company, which ſtated, that though the company were much diſtreſſed in money matters, they were, notwithſtanding, preparing to ſend out an expenſive commiſſion of ſuperviſion to India, which would ſtill add to that diſtreſs, and therefore recommended that a bill ſhould be brought in to reſtrain them, for a limited time, from ſending out any ſuch commiſſion. This recommendation was immediately adopted, and, after debates of no common length and violence, in both Houſes, received the royal aſſent.

In the courſe of theſe diſcuſſions it appeared, that ſince the year 1765, the company's expences had increaſed from 700,000l. to the enormous ſum of 1,700,000l. annually. It alſo appeared, that government had received by the net duties, the indemnity upon tea and the ſtipulated 400,000l. little leſs than two millions annually from the company. That the latter had loſt by the indemnity agreement, from its firſt commencement, at leaſt one million; of which 700,000l. went to government, and the remainder to the purchaſers. It was alſo ſhewn, that government had profited, during the laſt five years, to the amount of 3,395,000l. viz. by the produce of the annual ſtipulated payment 2,200,000l. and by the encreaſe of the revenue, compared on a medium with the five preceding years, 1,195,000. That the whole of the company's receipts of dividend, during the ſame period, ſcarcely amounted to 900,000l.

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1773 more than ſix per cent. upon its capital, which was the loweſt trading dividend that had ever been made during the moſt expenſive and dangerous wars. In ſhort, it appeared upon the whole, that the company's mercantile profits during the above period, amounted on an average to 464,000l. annually, which would have afforded a dividend of 12½ per cent.; ſo that while government profited to the great amount we have mentioned, the company and proprietary, inſtead of receiving any benefit, loſt conſiderably of the dividend, which the profits on their trade alone would have afforded. Arguments againſt the bill were founded upon this ſtatement, on the right of the company to appoint their own ſervants, and the ruinous conſequences which might ariſe from delay, in checking the miſconduct, diſobedience, and rapacity of their ſervants in the preſidencies abroad, which had unfortunately continued, without interruption, from the fatal loſs of the Aurora, in which the three gentlemen, who were ſent out in the year 1769, as ſuperiors to India, were too juſtly believed to have periſhed. But it was, however, inſiſted, on the other ſide, that the evils in India were of ſuch a magnitude, that nothing leſs than the legiſlature could reform them, and that its ſupreme controuling power could never be applied with greater propriety, or the proſpect of greater advantage than in the preſent inſtance, when the welfare and ſecurity of many millions, and the preſervation of great countries and revenues depended upon its exertion.

In conſequence of a previous petition from the Eaſt India Company for a loan, the miniſter, on the 9th of March, moved, as a matter of political expediency, but not as a claim of right, "That the affairs of the Eaſt India Company being in ſuch a ſtate as to require parliamentary aſſiſtance, a ſupply of 1,400,000l. be granted to the company; provided, at the ſame time, that due care be taken that ſuch neceſſary regulations ſhould be adopted, as to prevent the company's experiencing ſimilar exigencies for the future.

March 23.—The following reſolutions were moved and carried in the Houſe of Commons: "That ſuppoſing the public ſhould advance a loan to the Eaſt India Company, the company's dividend ſhould be reſtrained to ſix per cent. until the re-payment of the ſum advanced; and that the company be allowed to divide no more than ſeven per cent. until their bond debt is reduced to 1,500,000l."

April 5.—It was alſo moved and carried,—"That it is the opinion of this Houſe, that it will be more beneficial to the public and the Eaſt India Company, to let the territorial acquiſitions remain in the poſſeſſion of the company for a limited time, not exceeding the term of ſix years, to commence from the agreement between the public and the company. That no participation of profits ſhall take place between the public and the company, until after the repayment of 1,400,000l. advanced to the company, and the reduction of the company's bond debt to 1,500,000l. And that after the payment of the loan advanced to the company, and the reduction of their bond debt to the ſum ſpecified, three-fourths of the net ſurplus profits of the company at home above the ſum of eight per cent. upon their capital ſtock ſhall be paid into the Exchequer, for the uſe of the public, and the remaining one-fourth ſhall be ſet apart, either for further reducing the company's bond debt, or for compoſing a fund for the diſcharge of any contingent exigencies the company may labour under."

After the Houſe of Commons had, for two months, continually occupied itſelf with the affairs of this company; reſolutions, to the following effect, were moved and made the foundation of a bill, "For eſtabliſhing certain regulations for the better management of the affairs of the Eaſt India Company, as well in India as in Europe."

Firſt, "That the Court of Directors ſhould, in future, be elected for four years, ſix members annually; but none to hold their ſeats longer than four years.

Secondly,

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Thirdly, " That the qualification ſtock ſhould, inſtead of 500l. be 1000l.

Fourthly, " That the Mayor's Court of Calcutta ſhould, for the future, be confined to ſmall mercantile cauſes, to which only its juriſdiction extended before the territorial acquiſition.

Fifthly, " That in lieu of this court, thus taken away, a new one be eſtabliſhed, conſiſting of a chief juſtice and three puiſne judges.

Sixthly, " That theſe judges be appointed by the crown.

Seventhly, " That a ſuperiority be given to the preſidency of Bengal over the other preſidencies in India.

After ſeveral weeks continual agitation, this bill, which had naturally attracted the attention of all orders of people, was paſſed by great majorities in both houſes, and from the moment it received the royal aſſent, the Eaſt India Company may be conſidered as, in a great meaſure, if not wholly, in the hands of the Miniſters of the Crown.

Though the colonies had engaged in reſolutions not to import any tea from Great Britain, yet means had been found to import it, though in ſmaller quantities than heretofore; which decreaſe of importation was alſo owing, in ſome meaſure, to the lower price of ſuch as were brought from other countries. This diminution in the export of the teas, was very diſadvantageous to the Eaſt India Company; and in order to make them ſome compenſation, they were permitted by Parliament to export it to America free of any duty payable by the company.

In conſequence of this privilege, the company freighted ſeveral ſhips with tea for North America, and appointed agents to diſpoſe of it in the ſeveral colonies; but ſuch was the then determination there, to counteract the deſigns of the Britiſh miniſtry, that when three ſhips laden with tea entered the harbour of Boſton, the impoſſibility of landing it was ſo evident, that the captains of the veſſels would willingly have carried it back to England, could they have obtained a formal permiſſion from thoſe who were poſſeſſed of official power to grant it.

In the mean time the inhabitants, who were convinced that the tea would, by ſome means or other, be landed, if the ſhips were ſuffered to remain in the harbour, reſolved to take ſuch a mode of prevention, as would effectually check the deſign of making any future attempts of a ſimilar nature.

They therefore gave notice to the conſignees, and the captains, that they would not permit them to bring their teas aſhore, and inſiſted on the departure of the veſſels with their cargoes; which being refuſed by the governor and the officers of the cuſtom-houſe, a number of diſguiſed perſons boarded the ſhips and threw the whole cargoes into the ſea.

The ſame conduct was purſued towards veſſels laden with tea in other parts of America. At Philadelphia the pilots were forbidden to conduct them up the river Delawar; and, at New York, though ſome cheſts were landed under the protection of a man of war, the governor was under the neceſſity of delivering them into cuſtody, to preſerve the public peace.

At this time it appears, that the value of the ſhipping built in the colonies, amounted to 116,500l. annually; and that the conſumption of teas, before the importation duties were queſtioned, to 600,000l.

It appears by an authentic article publiſhed in the Belfaſt News Letter, dated the 6th of April in this year, that the number of ſhips and their tonnage, which ſailed with paſſengers from

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1773 from the North of Ireland to North America, in the two preceding years, were as follows:

Years.	*Ships.*	*Tons.*
In 1771	32	8,900
1772	30	8,450
Total,	62	17,350

It is ſuppoſed, on a moderate computation, that the number of paſſengers were equal to the tons. The greateſt part of theſe emigrants paid their paſſage, which at 3l. 10s. each, amounted to 60,725l. moſt of them people employed in the linen manufacture, or farmers, &c.

From accounts publiſhed at this time, it appears that the importation of coals into London, in the year 1772, amounted to 720,000 chaldrons, which was the greateſt that had been known.

In this year the importation of ſugars from the Weſt Indies to Briſtol, amounted to 20,000 hogſheads, which was 5,000 more than had ever been introduced into that port, in any one preceding year.

On the 2d of June, the Honourable Captain Phipps, now Lord Mulgrave, and Captain Lutwitch, in the Race Horſe and Carcaſe frigates, ſailed from the Nore on a voyage of diſcovery towards the North Pole. Mr. Lyons was appointed, by the Board of Longitude, to accompany them, to make obſervations in aſtronomy, natural hiſtory and philoſophy.

By an account laid before the Houſe of Commons of the number of horſes exported from England, from January 3, 1750, to January 5, 1772, the numbers appeared to be,

	Horſes.
During fourteen years peace,	21,348
During eight years war,	7,783
In all,	29,131

The total number of proprietors of Eaſt India ſtock, with their qualifications, as they ſtood in the company's books, the 4th of March in this year, were as follows:

	Proprietors.		*Stock.* £.	*s.*	*d.*
Engliſh, poſſeſſing 1000l. ſtock, and upwards,	487		1,018,398	19	11
Foreign, poſſeſſing 1000l. ſtock, and upwards,	325		890,940	17	0
Total, of 1000l. ſtock,	812	Tot. ſtock,	1,909,339	16	11

	Proprietors.		*Stock.* £.	*s.*	*d.*
Engliſh, poſſeſſing 500l. ſtock and upwards, not amounting to 1000l.	1,246		634,464	1	8
Foreign, poſſeſſing 500l. ſtock, &c.	95		50,226	0	0
Total, of 500l. ſtock,	1,341	Tot. ſtock,	684,690	1	8

In

A. D. 1772 In the London Gazette of July 31, the Governor, Deputy Governor, and Directors of the Bank, gave notice, that any quantity of guineas, half guineas, and quarter guineas, (cut or defaced agreeable to the act) not leſs than fifty guineas in a parcel, would be taken in there on Monday, Auguſt 2, and every Monday, Wedneſday and Saturday, till further notice; at the rate of 3l. 17s. 10½d. per ounce.

In the courſe of this year, 4,106 ſhips cleared at the Cuſtom-houſe, Newcaſtle, of which 3,720 were coaſters, and 386 for foreign parts.

The following bills, relating to trade and commerce, received the royal aſſent in the courſe of this year:

To encourage the ſubjects of foreign ſtates to lend money upon eſtates in the Weſt Indies.

For naturalizing the children of foreign Proteſtants, ſubjects of Great Britain.

To enable certain perſons to work a peſtle mill at Tunbridge in Kent.

For draining and improving the fens in the pariſhes of Upwell, Outwell, Denver, and Weley, lying on the ſouth ſide of Popham's Eau in the Iſle of Ely.

For draining the fens between Mildenhall River, South; Plant Lond and Brandon River, North; bounded on the Weſt by the Ouſe, and the Eaſt by Winder Lond Marſwell Brook, in the Iſle of Ely.

To prevent abuſes in the ſale of ſhares of ſhips, to foreigners, Britiſh built.

For better regulating ſhips loaded with coals in the ports of Sunderland and Newcaſtle.

For the better regulation and government of pilots, conducting ſhips and veſſels out of the port of King's Lynn, in the county of Norfolk.

For making and extending the navigation of the river Bure, from Coltiſhall to Aylſham Bridge, in the county of Norfolk.

For eſtabliſhing a plate-glaſs manufactory.

To allow a drawback of the duties of the cuſtoms on the exportation of teas to any of his Majeſty's colonies or plantations in America.

To regulate the importation and exportation of corn.

To enlarge the powers of two acts for making a navigable canal from the river of Forth, at or near the mouth of the river Carron, to the river Clyde in Scotland.

To enable the Earl of Thanet to make a navigable canal from the ſpring near Skipton in Yorkſhire, to communicate with the Leeds and Liverpool canal.

For appointing wardens and aſſay maſters, for aſſaying wrought plate in the towns of Birmingham and Sheffield.

For eſtabliſhing certain rules and orders for the future management of the affairs of the Eaſt India Company, as well in India as in Europe.

To prevent paper bills of credit hereafter to be iſſued in any of his Majeſty's colonies or plantations in America, from being declared to be a legal payment.

For altering the puniſhment of perſons fraudulently marking of plate.

To prevent the counterfeiting or diminiſhing the gold coin of the kingdom.

To regulate the wages or prices of journeymen weavers in Spitalfields, or within five miles of London.

For the better cultivating common arable fields, commons and waſtes.

To prevent the counterfeiting of bank notes or bills, and to prevent obtaining falſe credit by the imitation of bank notes or bills.

"By this act, paper makers, not authoriſed by the Bank, who ſhall make any paper with the words BANK OF ENGLAND, BANK POST BILL, or any words expreſſing the *ſum* or

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1772 *amount*, in white letters in a black ground, or having any plate ſo engraved in their cuſtody, ſhall be committed to the county gaol and ſuffer impriſonment therein, for any term not exceeding ſix months. The ſame puniſhment is likewiſe to be inflicted upon all perſons who ſhall utter notes with any ſuch marks upon them."

SUPPLIES granted by Parliament for the year 1773.	£.	s.	d.
For 20,000 ſeamen, including 4,354 marines, &c. —	1,040,000	0	0
For 17,070 land forces, including 1,522 invalids, &c. —	616,895	1	10
For maintaining garriſons, &c. — —	396,935	5	10⅛
For the difference of pay between the Britiſh and Iriſh eſtabliſhment of certain troops, &c. — — — —	5,503	9	5
For the pay of the general and ſtaff officers, &c. —	11,473	18	6½
For the out-penſioners of Chelſea, &c. — —	122,982	3	9
For the office of ordnance for the land ſervice —	218,460	13	10
For ditto, not provided for by Parliament in 1772, —	17,954	4	7
For the ordinary of the navy, — —	424,019	0	9
Towards building and repairs of ſhips, &c. —	421,554	0	0
On account of the civil eſtabliſhment of Nova Scotia, —	5,146	10	5
Ditto of Georgia, — — —	3,086	0	0
Ditto of Eaſt Florida, — — —	4,950	0	0
Ditto of Weſt Florida, — — —	7,274	13	6
Ditto of Senegambia, — — —	6,336	0	9½
On account of general ſurveys in North America, —	1,885	4	0
On account of reduced officers of the land forces, &c. —	111,127	5	10
For allowances to certain officers and gentlemen of the two reduced troops of horſe guards, &c. — — —	1,148	10	0
For the penſions payable to widows of certain reduced officers,	628	0	0
On account of making roads and building bridges in the Highlands of North Britain, — — — —	6,998	10	9
To the Levant Company, to aſſiſt them in carrying on their trade,	5,000	0	0
To replace to the ſinking fund the like ſum paid out of the ſame for certain purpoſes, &c. — — — —	48,245	11	6
For paying off certain Exchequer bills, — —	1,800,000	0	0
For the maintenance of Weſtminſter bridge, — —	2,000	0	0
For the extraordinaries of the army, &c. — —	249,708	12	1¼
To make good the deficiency of the grants for the year 1772,	21,085	1	7
For repairing, &c. the Britiſh forts on the coaſt of Africa,	13,000	0	0
To be applied for the purpoſe of relieving the Eaſt India Company, and for ſecuring to the creditors of the ſaid company, a more ſpeedy ſatisfaction of their demands, — — —	1,400,000	0	0
To make good to his Majeſty the like ſum which has been iſſued, by his Majeſty's orders, in purſuance of addreſſes of Parliament, —	6,200	0	0
To John Harriſon, as a further reward for his invention of a time keeper, for aſcertaining the longitude at ſea, — —	8,750	0	0
Carried over,	6,978,347	19	0⅜

A. D. 1773

	£.	s.	d.
Brought over,	6,978,347	19	0⅜
To enable his Majeſty to repay Meſſrs. Hodſon, Gordon and Debonair, the like ſum which has been overpaid by them to the commiſſioners of exciſe, &c. — — — —	4,363	0	0
To be advanced to Doctor Richard Williams, &c. for inventing a faſt green and yellow dye on cotton yarns, &c. — —	2,000	0	0
Total of ſupplies,	6,984,721	19	0⅜

Ways and Means for raiſing the foregoing ſupplies.	£.	s.	d.
Duty on malt, &c. — — —	750,000	0	0
Land tax, at 3s. — — — —	1,500,000	0	0
By certain ſurpluſſes remaining in the Exchequer, —	350,193	7	4¼
Exchequer bills, — — —	1,400,000	0	0
From the ſinking fund, — — —	2,349,806	12	7¾
By loans or Exchequer bills, &c. — —	1,000,000	0	0
From the produce of the duties reſerved for the diſpoſition of Parliament, — — — — —	10,000	0	0
From the Eaſt India Company, — —	169,398	18	2
By certain balances remaining in the Exchequer, &c. —	9,961	11	8
Total Ways and Means, —	7,539,360	9	10
Total Supplies, — —	6,984,710	19	0⅜
Exceſs of Proviſions, —	554,649	10	9⅝

The ſtate of the national debt remains the ſame as in our laſt account of it.

☞ The charge of the pay and cloathing of the militia of England, for one year, beginning the 25th of March, 1770, was ordered to be defrayed out of the monies ariſing by the land-tax granted for the ſervice of the ſaid year.

Additional duties and regulations of duties impoſed and made in the courſe of this year.

May 17.—A duty of 1s. 6d. was laid on every chaldron of culm, Newcaſtle meaſure, exported to Liſbon in any foreign veſſel.

An additional duty of 1½d. per ſquare yard, and in that proportion for any greater or leſs quantity, was laid on all paper, printed, painted, or ſtained in foreign parts, imported into this kingdom.

July 14.—The duty of 1l. 10s. payable for every negroe which ſhould be imported into the iſland of Dominica, or exported from the iſland of Jamaica, ceaſed and determined; and in lieu thereof, a duty of 2s. 6d. ſterling money was voted to be paid for every negroe which ſhould be imported into the ſaid iſland of Dominica, or exported from the ſaid iſland of Jamaica.

1772 *amount*, in white letters in a black ground, or having any plate ſo engraved in their cuſtody, ſhall be committed to the county gaol and ſuffer impriſonment therein, for any term not exceeding ſix months. The ſame puniſhment is likewiſe to be inflicted upon all perſons who ſhall utter notes with any ſuch marks upon them."

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To make good to his Majeſty the like ſum which has been iſſued, by his Majeſty's orders, in purſuance of addreſſes of Parliament,	6,200	0	0
To John Harriſon, as a further reward for his invention of a time keeper, for aſcertaining the longitude at ſea,	8,750	0	0
Carried over,	6,978,347	19	0⅜

	£.	s.	d.
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Total of ſupplies,	6,984,721	19	$0\frac{3}{8}$

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Land tax, at 3s. — — — —	1,500,000	0	0
By certain ſurpluſſes remaining in the Exchequer, —	350,193	7	$4\frac{1}{4}$
Exchequer bills, — — —	1,400,000	0	0
From the ſinking fund, — — —	2,349,806	12	$7\frac{3}{4}$
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Additional duties and regulations of duties impoſed and made in the courſe of this year.

May 17.—A duty of 1s. 6d. was laid on every chaldron of culm, Newcaſtle meaſure, exported to Liſbon in any foreign veſſel.

An additional duty of $1\frac{1}{2}$d. per ſquare yard, and in that proportion for any greater or leſs quantity, was laid on all paper, printed, painted, or ſtained in foreign parts, imported into this kingdom.

July 14.—The duty of 1l. 10s. payable for every negroe which ſhould be imported into the iſland of Dominica, or exported from the iſland of Jamaica, ceaſed and determined; and in lieu thereof, a duty of 2s. 6d. ſterling money was voted to be paid for every negroe which ſhould be imported into the ſaid iſland of Dominica, or exported from the ſaid iſland of Jamaica.

A. D.
1773

IMPORTS and EXPORTS, from CHRISTMAS 1772, to CHRISTMAS 1773.

Countries.	*Imports.*			*Exports.*		
Africa,	£. 68,424	19	9	£. 662,112	7	11
Canaries,	10,635	11	9	43,889	10	1
Denmark and Norway,	71,044	4	0	161,399	4	10
Eaſt Country,	164,337	12	2	68,571	19	8
Eaſt India,	1,933,096	18	5	845,707	16	6
Flanders,	79,957	1	4	1,006,601	6	7
France,	44,484	1	3	285,776	4	0
Germany,	454,186	9	5	1,337,552	1	10
Greenland,	17,644	14	10	28	10	4
Holland,	411,642	6	0	1,873,860	14	5
Ireland,	1,252,817	3	7	1,918,802	18	10
Iſle of Man,	4,563	4	8	18,336	4	4
Italy,	480,349	6	0	848,729	0	1
Madeiras	2,499	0	8	13,118	14	7
Portugal,	349,214	13	4	522,379	10	1
Ruſſia,	850,112	18	5	196,229	1	3
Spain,	462,342	12	6	839,072	7	6
Streights,	714	9	0	63,098	6	9
Sweden,	161,603	16	1	36,308	0	0
Turkey,	163,538	17	9	118,475	6	0
Venice,	104,003	10	7	98,371	4	6
Alderney,	623	5	9	1,891	15	7
Guernſey,	43,201	5	9	39,223	0	9
Jerſey,	11,881	4	4	20,665	1	0
Antigua,	112,779	0	10	93,323	1	3
Barbadoes,	168,682	6	1	148,817	9	3
Bermudas,	509	10	0	10,051	18	9
Canada,	42,394	11	2	316,867	19	6
Carolina,	456,513	8	4	344,859	9	1
Cape Breton,	—	16	6	984	6	4
Dominica,	248,868	16	5	43,679	12	7
Florida,	7,129	13	6	51,502	7	2
Georgia,	85,391	1	8	62,932	19	8
Granades,	445,041	0	9	102,761	1	6
Hudſon's Bay,	8,943	4	2	6,467	9	9
Jamaica,	1,286,888	16	6	683,451	8	10
Montſerrat,	47,911	12	8	14,974	6	1
Nevis,	39,299	7	6	9,181	14	8
New England,	124,624	19	6	527,055	15	10
Newfoundland,	68,087	11	9	77,744	1	4
New Providence,	3,379	11	4	2,132	16	4
New York,	76,246	12	0	289,214	19	7
Nova Scotia,	1,719	9	3	27,032	18	4
Pennſylvania,	36,652	8	9	426,448	17	3
St. Chriſtopher's,	150,512	5	5	62,607	19	10
St. Croix,	6,706	8	5	1,248	3	6
St. Euſtatia,	5,730	19	4	—	—	—
St. Thomas,	—	—	—	271	14	3
St. Vincent,	145,619	0	2	38,444	4	5
Tobago,	20,453	19	2	30,049	2	0
Tortola,	48,000	5	2	26,927	3	3
Virginia and Maryland,	589,803	14	5	328,904	15	8
Spaniſh Weſt Indies,	35,941	5	7	15,114	18	11
Totals,	11,406,841	3	8	14,763,253	2	4
Exports exceed the Imports,	3,356,411	18	8			

By

A. D.

1773 By the calculations of the Abbé D'Expilly, publiſhed about this time in Paris, and preſented by the author in perſon to the French King, it appears, that from the year 1691 to 1700, incluſive, France contained 35,127 pariſhes, in which, within the above period, by an exact and complete abſtract, taken from the public regiſters, there were 7,679,083 births; 1,807,891 marriages, and 6,784,724 deaths. From 1754 to 1763, incluſively, being a like period of nine years, and in the ſame 35,127 pariſhes, there were 8,532,110 births; 1,893,472 marriages, and 6,564,694 deaths: and from 1754 to 1763, in the 42,105 pariſhes contained in the kingdom of France, in which thoſe of Lorraine and Bar are comprized, 8,661,381 births; 4,663,822 being boys, and 3,997,560 girls;—1,922,163 marriages, and 6,664,161 deaths, 3,460,241 being men and boys, and 3,203,920 women and girls.

The number of chriſtenings and burials within the bills of mortality in London, &c. from December 15, 1772, to December 14, 1773, is as follows:

Chriſtened, males	8,549	Buried, males	10,839
——— females	8,256	—— females	10,817
	16,805		21,656

At Paris, there were in this year,—births 18,847; deaths 18,518; marriages 4,810; foundlings received in the hoſpital 5,989.

At Newcaſtle and Gateſhead, births 767; deaths 596.

1774 His Majeſty's ſpeech from the throne, on January 13, contained nothing very remarkable: its chief object was to recommend a particular attention to the ſtate of the gold coin, which had ſuffered a very alarming degree of diminution, and to continue the endeavours of the laſt ſeſſion towards reſtoring it to its natural ſtate of value and credit. America was not even mentioned. But no ſooner did advice arrive of the outrages committed on board the tea ſhips at Boſton, than both Houſes received a meſſage from the King, in which they were informed, that in conſequence of the unwarrantable practices carried on in North America, and particularly of the violent proceedings at the town and port of Boſton, with a view of obſtructing the commerce of this kingdom, and upon grounds and pretences immediately ſubverſive of its conſtitution, it was thought fit to lay the whole matter before Parliament, in full confidence that they would not only enable the crown to take ſuch meaſures as might be moſt likely to put a ſtop to thoſe diſorders, but would alſo take into their moſt ſerious conſideration, what further regulations and permanent proviſions might be neceſſary to be eſtabliſhed, for better ſecuring the laws, and the juſt dependence of the colonies upon the Crown and Parliament of Great Britain.

This meſſage was accompanied with a great number of authentic papers to juſtify the propriety of it, which contained all the neceſſary information relative to the late tranſactions in Maſſachuſet, and in other parts of America; and a bill was brought into Parliament, which, after conſiderable debates in both Houſes, received the royal aſſent, "for removing the officers concerned in the collection of the cuſtoms from the town of Boſton in the province of Maſſachuſet's Bay in North America, and to diſcontinue the landing and diſcharging, lading and ſhipping of goods, wares and merchandize, at the ſaid town of Boſton or within the harbour thereof."

This bill, called the Boſton Port Bill, was paſſed into a law on the following principles.—"That the oppoſition to the authority of Parliament had always originated in the colony of

A. D. 1774 Maſſachuſet, and that the colony itſelf had ever been inſtigated to ſuch conduct by the ſeditious proceedings of the town of Boſton. That it, therefore, became neceſſary to begin with that town, which, by a late unparalleled outrage, had led the way to the deſtruction of commerce in all parts of America: that if a ſevere and exemplary puniſhment was not inflicted on this heinous act, Great Britain would be wanting in the protection ſhe owed to her moſt peaceable and meritorious ſubjects; and that had ſuch an inſult been offered to Britiſh property in a foreign port, the nation would have been called upon to demand ſatisfaction for it."

The reſtraining clauſes of this act are, however, accompanied with one of a conciliating nature, as follows:

"That whenever it ſhall be made to appear to his Majeſty, &c. that the trade of Great Britain may be ſafely carried on in the town of Boſton, and his Majeſty's cuſtoms duly collected, it ſhall be lawful for his Majeſty, by proclamation or order of council, to aſſign and appoint the extent, bounds and limits of the port or harbour of Boſton, &c. and alſo to appoint ſuch places, wharfs, &c. within the harbour, &c. for the landing and ſhipping of goods, as his Majeſty ſhall judge neceſſary, and to appoint ſuch officers of the cuſtoms as his Majeſty ſhall think fit; after which it ſhall be lawful for any perſon to lade or to diſcharge and land upon ſuch wharfs, &c. ſo appointed.

"Provided alſo, that nothing contained in this act, ſhall extend to enable his Majeſty to appoint ſuch port, wharfs, &c. at Boſton, until ſufficient ſatisfaction ſhall have been made by, or on behalf of the town of Boſton, to the Eaſt India Company, for the damage ſuſtained by the deſtruction of their goods ſent to Boſton, &c. and until reaſonable ſatisfaction ſhall have been made to the officers of the revenue and others, who ſuffered by the riots in the months of November and December, in the year 1773, and in the month of January, in 1774."

But the Boſton Port Bill formed only one part of the coercive plan propoſed by the Miniſtry, as the effectual method of bringing her back to a ſtate of obedience. It was ſoon followed by a bill "for the better regulating Government in the province of Maſſachuſet's Bay." The purpoſe of which was, to alter the conſtitution of that province as it ſtood upon the charter of King William; to take the whole executive power out of the hands of the democratic part, and to veſt the nomination of counſellors, judges, magiſtrates, &c. in the crown, and, in ſome caſes, in the King's governor, and all to be removeable at the pleaſure of the crown.

The grounds alleged for bringing in this bill were as follows:

That the province of Maſſachuſet's Bay not only promoted diſtractions within itſelf, but ſet an ill example to all the colonies;—that an executive power was wanting;—that the Poſſe Comitatus, of which the civil power conſiſts, were the very people who committed the riots;—that there was a total defect in the conſtitutional power throughout;—and that it, therefore, became abſolutely neceſſary to change the whole frame of the Maſſachuſet's government, as far as related to the executive and judicial powers.

This bill produced very long and animated debates, but was paſſed in both Houſes by very great majorities.

The diſpoſition ſo prevalent in both Houſes of Parliament to ſtrong meaſures, and the general opinion of the people co-operating with them, encouraged the Miniſtry to proceed in their plan of reducing America to obedience: and another bill was ſoon after propoſed, "For the impartial adminiſtration of juſtice in the caſes of perſons queſtioned for any acts done by them in the execution of the laws, or for the ſuppreſſion of riots and tumults in the province of Maſſachuſet's Bay in New England."

This

A. D. 1774 This bill provided, that in caſe any perſon was indicted in that province for murder, or any other capital offence, and that it ſhould appear to the governor, that the fact was committed in the exerciſe or aid of magiſtracy, in ſuppreſſing tumults and riots, and that a fair trial could not be had in the province, he ſhould ſend the perſon ſo indicted, &c. to any colony, or to Great Britain, to be tried.—This act was made to continue for four years.

It was urged that this bill was neceſſary to give efficacy to the two former.—That it was in vain to appoint a magiſtracy that would act, if none could be found who would dare to execute their orders: that theſe orders would moſt probably be reſiſted by force, which would call forth an exertion of force to execute the laws: that, in this caſe, blood would probably be ſpilled; and that it would be dangerous in any one to riſk the event, though in the execution of the moſt evident duty, if the rioters themſelves, or their abettors, were to be his judges.—This mode of proceeding was alſo juſtified by examples.

This bill being carried with the ſame ſuperior ſtrength that had marked the ſucceſs of the two preceding ones, the miniſtry were encouraged to propoſe a fourth, at the cloſe of the ſeſſion, for making more effectual proviſion for the government of the province of Quebec, in North America.

By this bill, the limits of that province were extended much further than they ſtood at the time of the laſt general peace. The affairs of the province were ſubmitted to the direction of a council, in which the King's Roman Catholic ſubjects in Canada were to be admitted: the members of this council were to be appointed by the crown, and removable at its option; it was to be inveſted with the powers of legiſlation, and to exerciſe all the functions annexed to ſuch powers, excepting that of impoſing taxes. The French laws were eſtabliſhed, in civil cauſes, without a jury; and the Engliſh laws, with a trial by jury, only in criminal matters. The Roman Catholic ſecular clergy were ſecured in their poſſeſſions, and in the receipt of their uſual tythes from people of their own communion.

This bill, though oppoſed with great ſpirit and ability, in both Houſes, was equally ſucceſsful with thoſe that preceded it; but as it ſeemed, or was eaſily ſtrained to wear the appearance of containing principles hoſtile to liberty and the Proteſtant religion, it produced no ſmall portion of public ſuſpicion and diſapprobation.

But while the Parliament of Great Britain was letting looſe the ſpirit of coercion on the refractory colonies, they were not idle in preparing to deprecate or reſiſt it.

The firſt general congreſs was held at Philadelphia, on the 5th of September, in this year; when fifty-one delegates were preſent, viz. for New Hampſhire, two; Maſſachuſet's Bay, four; Rhode Iſland, two; Connecticut, three; New York, ſeven; New Jerſey, four; Pennſylvania, ſeven; Newcaſtle, &c. counties, three; Maryland, four; Virginia, ſeven; North Carolina, three; South Carolina, five.

Among other reſolutions, the following was agreed to at this convention, viz.

Not to import or conſume any Britiſh goods, wares, or merchandize, after December 1;—nor export any of the produce of the ſaid colonies to Great Britain after the September following.

A petition to the King for redreſs of grievances was ſigned by the delegates from twelve colonies at Philadelphia.

The Houſe of Commons, this ſeſſion, went into a committee to conſider of the preſent ſtate of the linen manufacture; when it appeared from witneſſes examined at the bar of the Houſe, that the linen manufacture of Scotland had decreaſed between two and three millions

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1774 of yards in the courſe of laſt year; that the value of what was ſtamped during the ſame period, was ſhort of the preceding year 226,000l.; that the average price of the cloth ſold in the year 1769, was 12d. 3-12ths the yard; and, in the year 1773, but 9d. 5-24ths; that four whole counties, Glaſgow and Paiſley included, out of 6,000 looms, had 2,500 unemployed; that the proportion of thoſe that were in general idle, was at leaſt one-third; that out of a certain diſtrict in the county of Sutherland, 600 out of 1,800 ſpinners had emigrated, and ſo in proportion in ſeveral other places therein ſpecified; that ſome of the linens of 1771 were ſtill on hand unſold; and, on the whole, that there were not, in the beginning of the preſent year, much more than half the weavers employed throughout the kingdom of Scotland and north of England.

In the adjourned committee of enquiry, Mr. Paine, governor of the Bank, underwent a long examination; and it appeared, from his teſtimony, that the imports of foreign linens, for four ſeries of five years, commencing in 1752, and ending in 1771, were 31, 24, 27, and 26,000,000 yards per annum; that in 1772, it was 27,000,000; but, in 1773, had fallen to 17,000,000; which fell ſhort of the loweſt import, being that of 1762, at the concluſion of the late war:—That the value of the exports from Great Britain to Holland and Germany, from 1758 to 1763, amounted to 28,000,000l.; that from 1760 to 1766, they had fallen, on an average, to 4,000,000l. and a fraction each year; but that from the latter period to 1771, they had ſtill further decreaſed one-fourth, or to 3,000,000l. and a fraction annually: that the drawback on exportation had varied from 1752 to 1771, from 44,000l. to 76,000l. and in the number of yards exported, from 7 to 10,000,000: that during the above period, the bounties paid on Britiſh and Iriſh linens exported, were from 18,000l. to 63,000l.; and, on an average of the three years preceding 1773, 61,000l. per annum: that the duties payable on the importation of foreign linens for twenty years paſt, was 173,000l. per annum; that the home conſumption of foreign linens was about 18,000,000 of yards yearly; and that the whole of the foreign linen import did not exceed 700,000l. and a fraction, excluſive of what was imported from Ruſſia, which was generally 4,000,000 yards per annum.

It appears by the export entries at the cuſtom-houſe, at Dublin, that the linen trade alone had decreaſed 5,000,000 of yards, of the invoice value of 350,000l. in the year 1772; and by the exports from March 1772, to March 1773, they further decreaſed one-third, which brought them under 900,000l; ſo that the exports of linen and yarn, taken together, fell ſhort of 1,100,000l. which was little more than half of their amount in 1771.

The quantity of woollen drapery imported into Dublin in this year was as follows:

	Yards.
From Cheſter,	129,918
—— Briſtol,	51,756
Total,	181,674

The quantity of muſlins imported in the ſame period, amounted to 65,951 yards.

The net duties received at the cuſtom-houſe of Dublin, for goods imported and exported there, from the 3d of January, 1774, to the 3d of January, 1775, both days incluſive, amounted to 360,260l.; of which 352,309l. was on goods imported, and 7,951l. on goods exported.

The duty on hops, for this year, amounted to 138,800l. and upwards.

The exciſe on beer and ale, from January 1774, to January 1775, amounted to 1,385,420l. 10s. —The whole revenue of the exciſe amounted to 3,487,129l. 12s. 6d.

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774 It appeared from the exciſe books, that the coach-tax, from 1772, to Midſummer, in this year, produced upwards of 42,000l. and was daily increaſing.

The following reſolution was reported to the Houſe of Commons, from the committee appointed to conſider of the ſtate of the gold coin:—“That there be made, under the direction of the officers of his Majeſty's mint, one weight of a guinea, and one weight of a ſhilling; and alſo other weights, being parts and multiples of the ſaid guinea weight and ſhilling weight, according to the eſtabliſhed ſtandard of this realm; which ſeveral weights, after they have been aſcertained by the report of the ſaid officers, and approved by his Majeſty in council, ſhall be the ſtandard weights for regulating and aſcertaining all weights to be made uſe of for weighing the gold and ſilver coin of this realm, and ſhall be lodged in the cuſtody of an officer to be appointed for that purpoſe, with a ſalary to be paid out of the coinage duties; and any weights which ſhall from thenceforth be made uſe of for weighing the gold and ſilver coin of this realm, ſhall not be reputed and taken to be true and perfect, unleſs they have been compared with the ſaid ſtandard weights; and, in teſtimony thereof, marked by the officer to whom the cuſtody of the ſaid ſtandard weights ſhall be entruſted.

An act was founded on this reſolution; and, ſome time in the month of October, the mint officers preſented, for the approbation of his Majeſty in council, four boxes of very accurate weights, as ſtandards for weighing the coin of theſe kingdoms; two ſeries of which, one for gold, and the other for ſilver, were to be preſerved in the mint, as originals; the others, as duplicates or copies of the ſame, were delivered to the proper officer appointed for comparing and marking all ſuch weights for common uſe; and from the laſt day of December following, no money weights were to be deemed legal but ſuch as were ſtamped by the ſaid officer, according to the above-mentioned act of Parliament.

It appeared, at this time, that the deficient gold money paid into the Bank, together with the light money at the above place, amounted to 3,418,960l.

A proclamation was iſſued on the 15th of October, forbidding the exportation of gunpowder, arms, or ammunition, from any part of Great Britain, for ſix months, and even prohibiting the carrying of any coaſtwiſe, without firſt obtaining a ſpecial licence for ſo doing from the King or his privy council.—From this prohibition, however, the maſter-general of the ordnance was excepted.

By a very exact calculation it was made evident, that 94,000 head of black cattle, and upwards of 800,000 ſheep and lambs were ſold at Smithfield market during this year.

In the courſe of this year 4,106 ſhips cleared from Newcaſtle; of which 3,720 were coaſters, and 386 for foreign parts.

The number of veſſels which paſſed the Sound in 1774, was as follows:—

	Ships.		*Ships.*
Daniſh,	892	Roſtockers,	59
Dutch,	2,447	Hamburghers,	40
Engliſh,	2,385	Spaniſh,	18
Swediſh,	1,227	Portugueſe,	2
French,	39	Lubeckers,	47
Bremeners,	186	Oſtenders,	14
Pruſſians,	284	Embdeners,	207
Ruſſians,	36	Oldenburghers,	3
Dantzickers,	194	Courlanders,	4

Amounting, in the whole, to 8,084 veſſels.

The

1774 The following bills relating to trade and commerce, received the royal aſſent during the courſe of this year.

For allowing the exportation of corn and grain to his Majeſty's ſugar colonies in America, and to regulate the importation and exportation of wheat, meal, malt, &c. to Guernſey, Jerſey, Alderney, and Sark.

For reducing the duties payable upon the exportation of gum Senegal.

For allowing the free importation of ſalted proviſions from Ireland.

For allowing the exportation of biſcuit and peas to Newfoundland.

For the immediate removal of the officers of the cuſtoms from Boſton in Maſſachuſet's Bay.

For improving and preſerving certain fen lands in the iſland of Ely, &c.

For putting into execution certain propoſals of the Dukes of Buccleugh and Queenſbury, for redeeming certain annuities granted by the proprietors of the Bank of Ayre, &c.

To continue an act for eſtabliſhing certain free ports in Jamaica.

For better regulating inſurances upon lives, and for prohibiting all ſuch inſurances, except in caſes, where the perſons inſuring ſhall have any intereſt in the life or death of the perſons inſured.

To amend an act for the more effectually preventing frauds and abuſes by perſons employed in the manufacture of hats, woollen, linen, and cotton manufactures.

To regulate the prices of corn imported and exported.

For continuing an act for allowing the exportation of rice from Carolina and Georgia to the South of Cape Finiſterre.

To prevent the exportation of utenſils employed in the cotton manufacture.

For improving, &c. the navigation of the river Calders.

For improving, &c. the navigation of the river Thames.

For regulating and aſcertaining the weights to be made uſe of in weighing the gold and ſilver coin.

For ſupplying the ſum granted for the re-coinage of the gold coin.

For a free importation of Indian corn, for a limited time.

SUPPLIES granted by Parliament for the year 1774:	£.	s.	d.
For 20,000 ſeamen, including 4,354 marines, —	1,040,000	0	0
For 18,024 land forces, including 1,522 invalids —	638,630	16	10
For maintaining forces and garriſons in the Plantations, &c.	375,062	13	$4\frac{1}{8}$
For defraying the difference of pay between the Britiſh and Iriſh eſtabliſhments of five battalions of foot, &c. — —	4,627	0	3
For the pay of general and ſtaff-officers, — —	11,473	18	$6\frac{1}{2}$
On account of the out-penſioners of Chelſea Hoſpital, —	122,731	5	0
On account of reduced officers of the land forces and marines,	107,525	19	2
For allowances to the ſeveral officers and private gentlemen of the two reduced troops of horſe-guards, &c. — —	1,010	2	1
For penſions to widows of certain reduced officers, —	628	0	0
For the charge of the office of ordnance for the land ſervice,	244,699	17	5
For the ſervices of ditto, for ditto, not provided for by Parliament, in 1773, — — — — —	26,425	0	2
For the ordinary of the navy, — — —	444,188	4	3
Carried over,	£. 3,017,002	17	$0\frac{5}{8}$

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	£.	s.	d.
Brought over,	3,017,002	17	$0\frac{5}{8}$
For building and repairs of ſhips of war, &c.	420,729	0	0
On account of new roads and bridges in North Britain,	6,998	18	7
To the Britiſh Muſeum,	2,000	0	0
On account of general ſurveys in North America,	2,085	4	0
On account of the civil eſtabliſhment of Senegambia,	6,336	0	$9\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto of Nova Scotia,	4,346	10	5
Ditto of Georgia,	3,086	0	0
Ditto of Eaſt Florida,	4,950	0	0
Ditto of Weſt Florida,	4,850	0	0
For paying off certain Exchequer bills, &c.	1,000,000	0	0
Towards the expence which ſhall be incurred, in calling in and recoining the deficient gold coin, &c.	250,000	0	0
Towards extraordinaries of the army, &c.	288,030	19	$5\frac{1}{2}$
To David Hartley, Eſq. towards enabling him to defray the charge of experiments, to aſcertain the utility of his diſcovery of a method to ſecure buildings and ſhips from fire,	2,500	0	0
To replace to the ſinking fund the like ſum paid out of the ſame, to make good certain deficiencies,	43,645	12	8
For repairing, maintaining, &c. the Britiſh forts and ſettlements on the coaſt of Africa,	13,000	0	0
To make good to his Majeſty the like ſum, iſſued in purſuance of the addreſſes of the Houſe of Commons,	10,100	0	0
Towards diſcharging a certain capital ſtock of 3 per cent. annuities,	880,000	0	0
Towards diſcharging the debt of the navy,	200,000	0	0
Total of Supplies,	6,159,661	2	$11\frac{5}{8}$

Ways and Means for this year :—	£.	s.	d.
By certain ſurpluſſes, &c.	113,190	11	$7\frac{1}{4}$
Malt-tax,	750,000	0	0
The land-tax, (at 3s.)	1,500,000	0	0
By certain ſurpluſſes,	619,303	7	$3\frac{3}{4}$
By Exchequer bills,	1,250,000	0	0
From the ſinking fund,	2,080,696	12	$8\frac{1}{4}$
From certain monies paid into the Exchequer,	15,000	0	0
Overplus of grants for the year 1773,	126,981	7	5
Balance of the two ſevenths of exciſe	23,637	11	$10\frac{3}{4}$
Surplus of certain duties,	20,237	5	3
Balance from the Deputy Treaſurer of Chelſea Hoſpital, &c.	16,500	0	4
From the counties which have not raiſed the militia,	30,561	9	3
Total of ways and means,	6,546,108	5	9
Supply granted,	6,159,661	2	$11\frac{5}{8}$
Exceſs of proviſions,	£. 386,447	2	$9\frac{3}{8}$

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1774 A duty of 3d. per yard was this year ordered to be levied on all printed, painted, ſtained, and dyed ſtuffs, wholly made of raw cotton wool, and manufactured in Great Britain.

The following additional duties on ſpirits, &c. which ſhould be imported into the province of Quebec, were likewiſe voted in order to be applied towards making a more certain and adequate proviſion for the charge of the adminiſtration of juſtice, and the ſupport of civil government in that province:

May 31.—A duty of 3d. ſterling per gallon upon all brandy, or other ſpirits of the manufacture of Great Britain: 6d. ſterling per gallon on all rum, or other ſpirits from any of his Majeſty's ſugar colonies in the Weſt Indies; and 1s. ſterling per gallon on all rum, or other ſpirits, from any other of his Majeſty's colonies in America: 1s. ſterling per gallon on all foreign brandy, or other ſpirits, of foreign manufacture, imported from Great Britain: 1s. ſterling per gallon on all rum, or other ſpirits, of the produce or manufacture of any of the colonies in America, not in the poſſeſſion or under the dominion of his Majeſty, brought from any place except Great Britain: 3d. ſterling per gallon on all melaſſes and ſyrups, which ſhould be brought in ſhips or veſſels belonging to his Majeſty's ſubjects in Great Britain or Ireland, or to his Majeſty's ſubjects in the ſaid province; and 6d. ſterling per gallon on the ſame articles, brought in any other veſſels in which the ſame may be legally imported.

The ſaid duties to be levied and paid, over and above all other duties now payable by the ſaid province of Quebec, by virtue of any former acts of Parliament.

A duty of 1l. 16s. ſterling, was alſo voted to be paid for every licence which ſhould be granted, by the governor, lieutenant governor, or commander in chief, of the ſaid province, to any perſon or perſons, for keeping a houſe of public entertainment, or for ſelling or retailing wine, brandy, rum, or any other liquors, within the ſaid province.

Extract from the general bill of chriſtenings and burials within the bills of mortality in London, from December 14, 1773, to December 14, 1774.

Chriſtened, Males,	8,711	Buried, Males,	10,366
Females,	8,287	Females,	10,518
	16,998		20,884

At Liverpool,—births, 1,192; deaths, 1,129; marriages, 506.

In the city of Norwich,—births, 1,090; deaths, 1,055.

An eſtimate made at this time by the Congreſs of America, of the number of ſouls in the following provinces:

	People.
In Maſſachuſet,	400,000
New Hampſhire,	150,000
Rhode Iſland,	59,678
Connecticut,	192,000
New York,	250,000
New Jerſey,	130,000
Pennſylvania, including the lower counties,	350,000
Maryland,	320,000
Virginia,	650,000
North Carolina,	300,000
South Carolina,	225,000
Total,	3,026,678

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A. D. 1775 The laws which had been paſſed relative to the colony of Maſſachuſet's Bay, and which were intended to operate both as a chaſtiſement for paſt and a preventative of future miſdemeanors in that province, were unfortunately productive of effects very different from thoſe which the ſanguine promoters of thoſe bills had hoped, and which adminiſtration had held out to the nation. The cauſe of Boſton was, indeed, now become the cauſe of America.

On the 30th of September in the laſt year, a proclamation was unexpectedly iſſued for the diſſolution of the Parliament, and on the 30th of November following, the new Parliament aſſembled. The ſpeech from the throne ſtated, "that a moſt daring ſpirit of reſiſtance and diſobedience to the law, ſtill unhappily prevailed and increaſed in the province of Maſſachuſet's Bay, and that thoſe proceedings had been countenanced and encouraged in others of the colonies, and unwarrantable attempts made to obſtruct the commerce of the kingdom by unlawful combinations; that ſuch meaſures had been taken, and ſuch orders given, as were judged to be moſt effectual for carrying into execution the laws which had been paſſed in the laſt ſeſſion of the late Parliament, for the protection and ſecurity of commerce, and for reſtoring and preſerving peace, order, and good government in the province of Maſſachuſet's Bay; that Parliament might depend upon a firm and ſtedfaſt reſolution to withſtand every attempt to weaken or impair the ſupreme authority of the Britiſh Legiſlature, over all the dominions of the crown, the maintenance of which was conſidered as eſſential to the dignity, ſafety, and welfare of the Britiſh empire; his Majeſty being aſſured of receiving the aſſiſtance and ſupport of Parliament, while acting upon theſe principles." Such was the ſubſtance of the royal ſpeech, and addreſſes in conformity to it, were voted in both Houſes, by very great majorities.

On the meeting of Parliament, January 20, Lord Chatham, in the Houſe of Lords, moved an addreſs to his Majeſty, "for recalling the troops from Boſton," which was rejected by a majority of 68 againſt 18.

January 23.—The merchants of London preſented a petition to the Houſe of Commons, on the ſituation of affairs in America. Petitions of a ſimilar nature were preſented from Briſtol, Glaſgow, Norwich, Liverpool, Birmingham, &c.

February 1.—The Earl of Chatham offered to the Houſe of Lords a bill, the intent of which was to ſettle the troubles of America. The contents of this famous bill were, a ſpecific acknowledgment of the ſupremacy of the legiſlature, and the ſuperintending power of the Britiſh Parliament. It declared, that no taxes or charges ſhould be levied in America, but with the free conſent of their aſſemblies. It aſſerted a right in the crown to keep and ſtation a military force eſtabliſhed by law, in any part of its dominions; but declared, that it could not be lawfully employed to enforce implicit and illegal ſubmiſſion. It authoriſed the holding of a congreſs, in order to recognize the ſupreme ſovereignty of Great Britain over the colonies, and to ſettle at the ſame time an annual revenue upon the crown, diſpoſable by Parliament, and applicable to the exigencies of the nation. On complying with theſe conditions, the acts complained of by Congreſs were to be ſuſpended, with every other meaſure pointed out as a grievance; and the conſtitution of their governments to remain as ſettled by their charters. This bill, however, notwithſtanding the importance of its object, and the illuſtrious character of the noble lord who framed it, was rejected without reſerve, and not permitted even to lie upon the table.

February 2.—A petition was preſented to the Houſe of Commons from the planters of the Sugar Colonies, reſiding in Great Britain, and the merchants of London trading to thoſe colonies.

1775 In this petition they ſet forth their great alarm at the aſſociation entered into by the continental congreſs, in conſequence of which all trade between North America and the Weſt Indies was to ceaſe at a certain day, unleſs the acts of Parliament therein ſpecified were repealed by that time. They ſtated, that the Britiſh property in the Weſt India Iſlands, amounted to upwards of thirty millions ſterling,—that a further property of many millions was employed in the commerce created by the ſaid iſlands; a commerce comprehending Africa, the Eaſt Indies and Europe; and that the whole profits and produce of thoſe capitals ultimately centered in Great Britain, and added to the national wealth; while the navigation neceſſary to all its branches, eſtabliſhed a ſtrength which wealth could neither purchaſe nor balance.

They ſhewed, that the ſugar plantations in the Weſt Indies are ſubject to a greater variety of contingencies than many other ſpecies of property, from their neceſſary dependence on external ſupport; that, therefore, ſhould any interruption happen in the general ſyſtem of their commerce, the great national ſtock, thus veſted and employed, muſt become precarious and unprofitable: that the profits ariſing from the then exiſting ſtate of thoſe iſlands, and that might be likely to ariſe from their future improvement, in a great meaſure depend on a free and reciprocal intercourſe between them and the ſeveral provinces of North America, from whence they are furniſhed with proviſions and other ſupplies, abſolutely neceſſary for their ſupport and the maintenance of their plantations.

They then proceeded to prove, that they could not be ſupplied from any other market, and in any degree proportionable to their wants, with thoſe articles of indiſpenſable neceſſity, which they then derived from the middle colonies of North America; and that if the agreement and aſſociation of the congreſs took full effect, the iſlands would be reduced to the greateſt diſtreſs.

February 6.—The Miniſter opened his deſigns with reſpect to America; the meaſures now propoſed to the Houſe were, to ſend a greater force to America, and to paſs a temporary act, ſuſpending all the foreign trade of the different colonies of New England, and particularly the New England fiſhery, until they conſented to acknowledge the ſupreme authority of the Britiſh Legiſlature, pay obedience to the laws of this realm, and make a due ſubmiſſion to the King; on doing which, theſe reſtrictions ſhould be taken off, and their real grievances, on making proper application ſhould be redreſſed.

The addreſs voted in conſequence of the miniſterial motion, fully coincided with all the views he had unfolded, and it concluded with a declaration, "that it is the fixed reſolution of his faithful Commons, at the hazard of their lives and properties, to ſtand by his Majeſty, againſt all rebellious attempts, in the maintenance of his juſt rights and thoſe of the two Houſes of Parliament.

On the very next day a conference was held between the two Houſes, wherein they both agreed to unite in the addreſs; which, being carried to the Throne, was anſwered by an aſſurance of taking due meaſures to enforce the requiſitions of it, and was accompanied with a meſſage from the King, requeſting the Commons to take the moſt ſpeedy and effectual means of carrying into execution the meaſures they had ſo ſtrongly recommended.

February 20.—Lord North moved the following reſolution, which was carried by a great majority, "That when the Governor, Council, Aſſembly, or General Court of his Majeſty's provinces or colonies, ſhall propoſe to make proviſion, according to their reſpective conditions, circumſtances and ſituations, for contributing their proportion to the common defence, ſuch proportion to be raiſed under the authority of the General Court, or General Aſſembly of ſuch

A. D. 1775 province or colony, and diſpoſable by Parliament; and ſhall engage to make proviſion alſo for the ſupport of the civil government, and the adminiſtration of juſtice in ſuch province or colony, it will be proper, if ſuch propoſal ſhould be approved by his Majeſty in Parliament, and for ſo long as ſuch proviſion ſhould be made accordingly, to forbear in reſpect of ſuch province or colony, to levy any duties, tax, or aſſeſſment, except only ſuch duties as it may be expedient to impoſe for the regulation of commerce; the net produce of the duties laſt mentioned, to be carried to the account of ſuch province, colony, or plantation reſpectively."

February 10.—A motion was made in the Houſe of Commons, to bring in a bill to reſtrain the trade and commerce of the provinces of Maſſachuſet's Bay and New Hampſhire; the colonies of Connecticut and Rhode Iſland, and Providence Plantation in North America, to Great Britain, Ireland, and the Britiſh Iſlands in the Weſt Indies; and to prohibit ſuch provinces and colonies from carrying on any fiſhery on the banks of Newfoundland, or other places therein to be mentioned, under certain conditions, and for a limited time.

The reaſons offered in ſupport of this bill were, that as the Americans had entered into agreements not to trade with this kingdom, it was but juſt that they ſhould not be ſuffered to trade with any other nation; that their charter reſtricted them to the act of navigation, and that the ſeveral relaxations of that law were ſo many acts of grace and favour, which from their diſobedience they no longer merited to enjoy; and that as the fiſheries on the banks of Newfoundland, as well as all the others in North America, were the undoubted right of Great Britain, it was but juſt that a rebellious people ſhould be deprived of the advantages reſulting from them.

The oppoſition againſt this bill was greatly ſtrengthened by a petition from the merchants and traders of London who were intereſted in the American commerce, and were permitted to be heard by their counſel againſt the bill, at the bar of the Houſe.

In the courſe of the evidence it appeared, that ſo far back as the year 1764, the four provinces of New England employed, in their ſeveral fiſheries, no leſs than 45,880 ton of ſhipping, and 6,002 mariners; and that the produce of their fiſheries in the foreign markets for that year, amounted, in ſterling money, to the ſum of 322,220l. 16s. It alſo appeared, that the fiſheries had increaſed very much ſince that time; that the New England fiſh were much better than thoſe taken by ſhips fitted out from Great Britain; that all the materials uſed in the fiſheries, except ſalt, and the timber of which the veſſels were built, were taken from this country, and that the net proceeds of the fiſh were remitted here.

It was alſo given in evidence, that neither the whale nor the cod fiſheries could be carried on to any degree of equal extent and advantage, either from Newfoundland or Great Britain, as from North America; that there were many local circumſtances and ſome natural advantages in favour of the latter, which could neither be counteracted or ſupplied; that with reſpect to transferring the fiſheries to Nova Scotia or Quebec, were government even to furniſh them with a capital, they had neither veſſels nor men; nor could they procure them from any other place than New England; that, in any caſe, the prohibiting one fiſhery, and the creation of another, may take up a large portion of time, and that, in the interval, the trade would be inevitably loſt; and that the people belonging to the American fiſheries had ſuch an abhorrence of the military government eſtabliſhed at Halifax, and ſo invincible an averſion to the looſe habits and manners of the people, that nothing could induce them to remove thither, even ſuppoſing them reduced to the neceſſity of emigration. It alſo appeared, that there was near a million of money owing from New England to London.

1775 The evidence alſo ſtated to the Houſe, that the calamities proceeding from this bill would fall, in a very particular manner, upon thoſe who, from the nature of their occupations, muſt be innocent; for as the people belonging to the fiſheries paſs the greateſt part of the year at ſea, they could have no ſhare in the criminal conduct which was imputed to others; that the caſe of the inhabitants of Nantucket was peculiarly hard: that this extraordinary people, amounting to between five and ſix thouſand in number, nine-tenths of whom are quakers, inhabited a barren iſland fifteen miles long and three broad; the produce of which, was ſcarcely equal to the maintenance of twenty families: that from the only harbour which this iſland poſſeſſes, the inhabitants, by an aſtoniſhing exertion of induſtry, conſtantly employ 140 veſſels, of which eight are continually engaged in the importation of proviſions, and the reſt in the whale fiſhery; which, with an invincible perſeverance, they have extended from the frozen regions of the Pole, to the coaſts of Africa, to the Brazils, and even as far ſouth as the Falkland Iſlands; ſome of their fiſhing voyages continuing for ſo long a ſpace as twelve months. The particular caſe of theſe people was ſo remarkable, that a motion proceeded from adminiſtration to afford them relief.

At the ſame time, a petition was preſented by the merchants, traders, &c. of Poole, in Dorſetſhire, in direct oppoſition, though not perhaps with equal authority, to that of London.

This petition ſtated, that the reſtraints laid upon the colonies would not, by any means, be injurious to Britiſh commerce; that the foreign markets might be amply ſupplied by extending the Newfoundland fiſhery from England; that the ſaid fiſhery already exceeded half a million annually, all which centered in this kingdom, whereas the profits of the colony fiſheries went elſewhere; that the fiſhery from the mother-country is a never failing nurſery of ſeamen for the navy, while the American ſeamen were not compellable to ſerve their country in time of war. It concluded with ſoliciting ſuch encouragement to the Britiſh fiſhery to Newfoundland, as Parliament ſhould think beſt adapted to the enlargement of it. In ſhort, it appeared, that about 400 ſhips of 36,000 tons burthen, 2,000 fiſhing ſhallops of 20,000 tons burthen, and 20,000 mariners, &c. were employed in the Britiſh Newfoundland fiſhery; that above 600,000 quintals of fiſh were annually taken, which, upon an average of ſeven years, were worth 14s. per quintal; and, with the other amounts, conſiſting of ſalmon, cod-oil, ſeal, and furs, exceeded half a million yearly; and that of the 20,000 men from Great Britain and Ireland employed in that fiſhery, 8,000 neceſſarily continued in Newfoundland all the winter.

In every ſtage of this buſineſs the violence of debate rekindled; the ſame ſpirit of oppoſition met it in the Houſe of Lords, where it was ſo enlarged as to include in its reſtrictions the provinces of New Jerſey, Pennſylvania, Maryland, Virginia and Carolina. But this amendment did not meet with the concurrence of the Houſe of Commons, and the bill was paſſed without the propoſed alteration.

This bill was immediately followed by another, upon the principle of the amendment propoſed by the Lords in the laſt, "To reſtrain the Trade and Commerce of the Colonies of New Jerſey, Pennſylvania, Maryland, Virginia and South Carolina, to Great Britain, Ireland, and the Britiſh Iſlands in the Weſt Indies, under certain conditions and limitations.

While this bill was in agitation, a long ſeries of important evidence in behalf of the Weſt India merchants and planters, and in ſupport of the petition which they had lately preſented, was laid before the Houſe. Mr. Glover, the author of Leonidas, and equally celebrated for

1775 literary merit as for commercial knowledge, appeared as agent for the petitioners at the bar of the Houſe.

It appeared from the evidence produced on this occaſion, that the ſugar colonies were to be conſidered as vaſt manufactories, with this peculiar diſtinction from others, that they were obliged to raiſe their own materials; that the cane was the raw material; ſugar, melaſſes and rum, the manufacture; that the raiſing of proviſion was, and muſt neceſſarily continue to be, a very ſecondary object; that, if neceſſity ſhould at any time render it otherwiſe, the manufacture muſt, of courſe, decline in proportion to the attention paid to the other; but that the ſcarcity of land in the ſmall iſlands, the great value of cultivable land, for the purpoſe of raiſing the material in all, together with the exceſſive price of labour, and many inſurmountable natural impediments, rendered the raiſing of any thing like a ſufficient ſtock of proviſions utterly impracticable. That the middle colonies of North America were the great ſources of ſupply to the Weſt India Iſlands, not only for proviſion, but for an article equally neceſſary, which is underſtood under the term lumber; and by which is meant every kind of timber and wood that is uſed in building and the cooperage; excepting only ſome particular caſes, wherein great ſtrength and durability are required, and in which the hard woods peculiar to the tropical regions are preferable.

It was alſo aſſerted without reſerve, that no other ſources of ſupply could be opened either in America or in Europe, which, with reſpect to time, quantity, and many other circumſtances, could prevent the dreadful effects of a famine in the Sugar Iſlands; an event which would be rendered ſtill the more dreadful, by the vaſt ſuperiority of the negroes to the white people in number, and the horrible barbarities which muſt be expected from them, in circumſtances of calamity that would deſtroy all order and diſtinction among the moſt civilized nations: and that if there was even a poſſibility of averting this fatal event, the iſlands would, notwithſtanding, be ruined, as their great ſtaple commodities of ſugar and rum would be uſeleſs for want of caſks to contain them; and they could not receive ſtaves from any part of Europe upon ſuch terms as they were able to comply with.

It appeared alſo in the courſe of this evidence, that on a very moderate calculation, in which large allowances were made for every poſſible exceſs, that the capital in thoſe iſlands, conſiſting in cultivated lands, buildings, negroes, and ſtock of all kinds, did not amount to leſs than 60,000,000l. ſterling; that their exports for ſome years paſt to Great Britain, had amounted to about 190,000 hogſheads and puncheons of ſugar and rum; amounting in weight to near 95,000 tons, and in value to about 4,000,000l. excluſive of a great number of ſmaller articles; and of their very great export to North America; that their growth was ſo great, and their improvements ſo rapid, that within a very few years, their export of ſugar to this kingdom, was increaſed 40,000 hogſheads annually, amounting to about 800,000l. in value.

It appeared alſo to be extremely probable, though it was not (for perhaps it could not be) preciſely aſcertained, that more than one half of that vaſt capital of 60,000,000l. was either the immediate property of, or was owing to perſons reſident in this country. It was alſo evident, that the revenue gained above 700,000l. per ann. upon the direct Weſt India trade, excluſive of its eventual and circuitous products of the African trade; and it was fully ſhewn, that this immenſe capital and trade, as well as that of Africa, neither of which could ſubſiſt without the other, were from nature and circumſtances, in a great meaſure, if not wholly, dependent upon North America.

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March 22.—Mr. Edmund Burke, in his ſpeech on moving his conciliatory propoſitions with reſpect to the colonies, in taking a view of the trade of this country at different periods, made it appear, that the whole exports to North America, the Weſt Indies, and Africa, in the year 1704, amounted only in value to 569,930l. and that in the year 1772, which was taken upon a medium, as being neither the higheſt nor the loweſt of thoſe which might have been applied to of late, the exports to the ſame places (including thoſe from Scotland, which in 1704 had no exiſtence) amounted to no leſs than 6,024,171l. being in the proportion of nearly eleven to one.

He alſo ſhewed, that the whole export trade of England, including that to the colonies, amounted at the firſt period of 1704, to no more than 6,509,000l. Thus the trade to the colonies alone, was, at the latter period, within leſs than half a million of being equal to what this great commercial nation carried on, at the beginning of the preſent century, with the whole world; and ſtating, as he did at this period, the whole commerce of this country at 16,000,000, that to the colonies, which in the firſt period conſtituted but one twelfth of the whole, was now very conſiderably more than one third.

But however aſtoniſhing the general encreaſe of the whole colonies at large might appear, the growth of the province of Pennſylvania is ſtill more extraordinary. In the year 1704, the whole exports to that colony amounted to 11,819l. and in 1772, were riſen to 507,909l. being nearly fifty times the original demand, and almoſt equal to the whole colony export at the firſt period.

April 19.—On this day hoſtilities may be ſaid to have commenced in America. General Gage having ſent a detachment to ſeize or deſtroy cannon and ammunition at Concord, were, on their return to Boſton, fired on at Lexington by ſome of the Provincials, when a ſucceſſion of ſkirmiſhes took place, and ſeveral on both ſides were killed and wounded.

April 27.—As the American fiſheries were now aboliſhed, it became neceſſary to think of forming ſome plan for ſupplying their place, and to guard againſt the ruinous conſequences of the foreign markets either changing the courſe of conſumption, or falling into the hands of ſtrangers, and thoſe, perhaps, hoſtile to this country.

The conſumption of fiſh oil, as a ſubſtitute for tallow, was now become ſo extenſive, as to render that alſo an object of great national concern; the city of London alone expending about 300,000l. annually in that commodity.

It ſeemed alſo to be neceſſary in this critical period, to pay a more particular attention to the intereſts of the kingdom of Ireland, than had been the practice for many years. It had appeared in the maſs of evidence which had lately been offered to the Houſe of Commons, that the exports from England to Ireland amounted, at this time, to 2,400,000l. per annum, beſides her ſupporting a large and excellent army at all times ready for our defence; and the immenſe ſums of her ready caſh, which her numerous abſentees, penſioners and placemen ſpend in this country. Yet, from oppreſſive reſtrictions in trade, the kingdom was cut off from the benefit of her great natural ſtaple commodity, as well as excluded in general from the advantages which ſhe might derive from her admirable ſituation, and her great number of excellent harbours.

The Miniſter accordingly moved for a committee of the whole Houſe, to conſider of the encouragement proper to be given to the fiſheries of Great Britain and Ireland, and in the progreſs of the bill it was agreed, " That a bounty of 40l. be given to the firſt 100 ſhips that arrive with a cargo of 10,000 cod-fiſh, caught on the banks of Newfoundland; 20l. for the next

1775 next 100 ſhips, and 10l. for the next 100 ſhips. That a bounty of 500l. be given to the ſhip that arrives with the greateſt quantity of whale oil; 400l. for the next greateſt quantity; 300l. for the next; 200l. for the next, and 100l. for the next. That Ireland have liberty to import blubber and whale fins, the ſame as England: that the duty on ſeal ſkins imported into Ireland do ceaſe and be no longer paid: that Ireland have leave to export cloathing to America, for ſo much of the army as they ſupply and pay for; as alſo proviſions, hooks, lines, nets, tools and implements, for the purpoſes of the fiſhery: and that a bounty of 5s. per barrel be given to all flax ſeed imported into Ireland.

The following are the principal events which took place in America in this year, and as they will be found to operate materially on the future tranſactions of the war which followed, a general ſtatement of them, at leaſt, is eſſential to this period of our hiſtory.

In the month of May, the Virginians came to a reſolution not to export tobacco to Great Britain; and the provincial aſſembly of New Jerſey prohibited all exports whatever.

The ſecond general Congreſs met at Philadelphia, where they eſtabliſhed a paper currency for the ſupport of a continental army, and took the Poſt-office into their own hands. They likewiſe reſolved, "that no negociation by bill, draught, or ſupply, be done with Britiſh officers or their agents;" and "that the compact between the Crown and the people of Maſſachuſet's Bay be diſſolved, &c."

The provincial aſſembly of South Carolina, alſo came to a reſolution not to deal with any of the inhabitants of Pool in Dorſetſhire.

On the 17th of June, a very bloody action took place between the King's troops and the Provincials, on Bunker's Hill.

In the month of July, the provincial aſſembly of New York prohibited the exportation of proviſions to the Newfoundland fiſhery; and the non-importation of Britiſh goods was agreed to in Georgia and Virginia. Congreſs, however, allowed the importation of military ſtores.

A Congreſs of Indian chiefs and warriors met General Carleton and Colonel Johnſon at Montreal, and reſolved to fulfill their engagements with Great Britain.

Every port in America was ſhut by a reſolution of Congreſs; who, a few days afterwards, rejected the propoſition of Parliament, made on the 20th of February, in this year: and, in the enſuing month, non-exportation and non-importation took place throughout America in conſequence of that reſolution.

In the month of Auguſt, the committee chamber of New York ſtrictly forbad the ſupplying of the Britiſh troops in America with proviſions: at the ſame time, the provincial aſſembly of Pennſylvania reſolved not to deal with certain Britiſh merchants.

About this time, upwards of 3000l. in 36s. pieces, were ſeized on board a ſhip in the river Thames, bound for Boſton in New England.

The States General of Holland iſſued a proclamation, prohibiting the exportation of warlike ſtores to America: and in October, the King of Denmark publiſhed an edict, forbidding his ſubjects to give any aſſiſtance to the Americans.

A proclamation was alſo made in the Britiſh Weſt India Iſlands, forbidding all intercourſe with the Americans.

A great number of people having been tempted by American emiſſaries to quit Scotland, emigration from that country was prohibited, and particularly from the Weſtern Iſlands.

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1775 In the month of November, the provincial committee of Pennſylvania inſtructed their delegates, " not to agree to any propoſition in the general Congreſs, that might lead to a ſeparation with the mother country, or to a change of government."

In December the Weſt India planters and merchants in London, petitioned the Houſe of Commons on American affairs.

On the 23d of the ſame month, a bill to prohibit all trade and intercourſe with the American colonies, in actual rebellion, received the royal aſſent.

At the opening of the ſeſſion, a petition had been preſented to both Houſes of Parliament from the Aſſembly of Nova Scotia. It was ſent from that aſſembly in conſequence of Lord North's conciliatory propoſition; and was intended, by thoſe who promoted it in that colony, as a pattern and precedent for the reſt. The mode of granting a revenue, propoſed by this aſſembly, was the payment of ſome ſpecific duty per cent. upon importation of all foreign commodities, bay ſalt only excepted; by which means the amount of the revenue would at all times bear a due relation and proportion to the opulence and conſumption of the province, &c.

Many cauſes, however, concurred to leſſen the effect of this petition from Nova Scotia. That province had coſt government immenſe ſums of money, without its growth or value in any degree correſponding with the expence. It was ſtill unequal to the ſupport of its own civil government, the expence of which was annually granted by Parliament; ſo that the offer of a revenue in ſuch circumſtances, however laudable the motives and intention, carried in ſome degree a ludicrous appearance: as it was, alſo, under the influence of a military power, its acts could not be ſuppoſed to carry any great weight as an example, with thoſe colonies who abhorred ſuch an appearance, and whoſe preſent troubles aroſe from a defence of what they conceived to be their civil immunities and conſtitution.

The petition, beſides, contained a long catalogue of grievances, the redreſs of which was as earneſtly preſſed, though in more ſuppliant language, as a ſimilar redreſs had been by the other provinces, and ſeemed, in ſome degree, to be conſidered as conditional and neceſſary towards the eſtabliſhment of a permanent connection, and for retaining the affection and obedience of the people. Upon the whole, excepting the profeſſion of ſubmiſſion to the ſupreme legiſlature, which had only of late been a queſtion any where, and the propoſal of a duty, which ſeemed little more than a commercial regulation, this petition did not contain any thing eſſentially different from the former application of other colonies.

Reſolutions, however, to the following purpoſe were now propoſed by the miniſter, and paſſed in a committee, as foundations for an intended bill, viz. that the propoſal of a poundage duty, *ad valorem*, upon all commodities imported, bay ſalt excepted, not being the produce of the Britiſh dominions in Europe or America, to be diſpoſed of by Parliament, ſhould be accepted, and the duty fixed at 8l. per cent. upon all ſuch commodities. That as ſoon as the neceſſary acts for that purpoſe were paſſed by the Aſſembly of Nova Scotia, and had received the royal approbation, all other taxes and duties in that province ſhould ceaſe and be diſcontinued, and no other laid on, while thoſe acts continued in force, excepting only ſuch duties as were found neceſſary for the regulation of commerce; the net produce of which were to be carried to the account of the province: and to admit an importation into that province of wines, oranges, lemons, currants and raiſins, directly from the place of their growth and produce.

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This relaxation of the act of navigation, though not very conſiderable, was intended to ſhew the favourable diſpoſition of Parliament towards this province, which had ſet ſo laudable an example of obedience; and ſeemed to hold out to the colonies in general, an enlargement of commerce as a compenſation for their acceding to the conciliatory reſolution. Indeed, no ſmall attention was paid to this petition, as forming a model for future taxation; and ſerious hopes were entertained of its effect until it had paſſed the committee. But the pacific ſyſtem, of which this meaſure was a leading part, was ſuddenly laid aſide, and the whole of this buſineſs was ſuffered to die away. The projected bill was not brought in, and after the enſuing holidays, the petition from Nova Scotia was heard of no more.

The following is a compleat liſt of the Emperor of Morocco's navy at this time.

At Larache,—two frigates of 30 guns and 200 men each;—three frigates of 24 guns and 150 men each;—two frigates of 20 guns and 130 men each;—one galliot of 22 oars, 12 guns and 90 men each.

At Tetuan,—two xebecs of 30 oars, 20 guns and 200 men each;—one galliot of 32 oars, 16 guns and 100 men;—three galliots of 24 oars, 10 guns and 90 men each;—one galliot of 16 oars, 8 guns and 60 men;—one xebec of 26 oars and 16 guns, and two galliots of 22 oars and 12 guns, ready for launching.

At Sallee,—one veſſel of 24 guns and 180 men;—one xebec of 20 oars, 18 guns and 120 men;—three galliots of 30 oars, 10 guns and 130 men each.

At Tangier,—one galliot of 36 oars, 20 guns and 160 men.

It appeared from authentic papers, that during this year, the number of packs of cards ſtamped, amounted to 428,000, and of pairs of dice to 3,000; and that during the ſame period 12,300,000 newſpapers had been publiſhed.

The quantity of gold that had been coined at the Tower of London ſince the year 1772, amounted to about 13,000,000l.

An account of the value of corn imported into England and Scotland ſince the commencement of the corn regiſter act in 1770, the value of corn exported in each year being firſt deducted.

			£.
Balance paid for corn in 1771,	—	—	105,200
———————— 1772,	—	—	84,400
———————— 1773,	—	—	569,820
———————— 1774,	—	—	1,022,230
		Total,	1,781,650

The imports into Great Britain from Virginia and Maryland, before the war, were 96,000 hogſheads of tobacco, of which 13,500 were conſumed at home; and the duty on them, at 26l. 1s. each, amounted to 331,675l.: the remaining 82,500 were exported by our merchants to different parts of Europe, and brought a great deal of money into this kingdom. This trade alone conſtantly employed 330 ſhips and 3,960 ſailors.

The following bills relating to trade and commerce, received the royal aſſent in the Parliamentary ſeſſions of this year.

A bill to explain, amend, and render more effectual, an act for prohibiting the exportation of utenſils made uſe of in the woollen, linen, and other manufactures.

To continue an act for allowing the free importation of Iriſh ſalted proviſions, &c.

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The Oxford canal and Thames navigation bills.

A bill to reſtrain the trade and commerce of the colonies of New Jerſey, Pennſylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and South Carolina, to Great Britain, Ireland, and the Weſt India iſlands.

To explain and amend an act to prevent frauds in the manufacture of hats, the woollen, and divers other branches of trade.

To enable Sir Nigel Greſley and ſon to make a navigable canal from certain coal mines at Apedale, in Staffordſhire, to Newcaſtle under Line.

To enable the different univerſities in Great Britain, and the colleges of Eton, Weſtminſter, and Wincheſter, to hold, in perpetuity, their copy-right in books given or bequeathed to them, for the advancement of learning.

For altering, explaining, and amending ſeveral acts of Parliament in Scotland, relative to colliers, coal-bearers, and ſalters.

For compleating and maintaining the pier of Magaviſſey, in Cornwall.

To permit the free importation of raw goat-ſkins into this kingdom.

To permit the importation of painted earthen ware, except gally-tiles, the manufacture of Europe, to be ſold in Great Britain.

For the encouragement of the fiſheries carried on from Great Britain, Ireland, and the Britiſh dominions in Europe.

For giving a public reward to ſuch perſon or perſons as ſhall diſcover a northern paſſage from Europe to the weſtern and ſouthern ocean of America.

To enlarge the term of letters patent granted to William Clockworth, for the ſole uſe of a diſcovery of certain materials for the making of porcelain.

To prohibit all trade with the North American colonies, now in actual rebellion, during the continuance thereof.

SUPPLIES granted by Parliament for this year:—	£.	s.	d.
For 18,000 ſeamen, including marines, — —	936,000	0	0
Towards building and repairing ſhips, &c. — —	297,379	0	0
For the ordinary of the navy, — — —	440,680	15	10
For the charge of the office of ordnance for the land ſervice, &c.	228,059	1	7
For ſervices performed by ditto for ditto, not provided for by Parliament in 1774, — — — — —	32,748	5	3
For 17,547 land-forces, including 4,383 invalids, &c. —	695,396	11	5
For maintaining forces and garriſons in the plantations and Africa, at Minorca, Gibraltar, &c. — — —	386,186	0	$10\frac{1}{8}$
For the difference of pay between the Britiſh and Iriſh eſtabliſhments,	2,874	4	9
Ditto, — — — — — —	9,536	10	7
For the pay of the general and ſtaff-officers, &c. — —	11,473	18	$6\frac{1}{2}$
For the charge of out-penſioners of Chelſea Hoſpital, &c. —	122,221	15	5
On account of the reduced officers of his Majeſty's land forces, &c.	105,326	16	8
For allowances to ſeveral officers and private gentlemen of the two reduced troops of horſe-guards, &c. — —	870	3	9
For penſions to the widows of certain reduced officers, —	628	0	0
Carried forward,	3,269,381	4	$7\frac{5}{8}$

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	£.	s.	d.
Brought over,	£. 3,269,381	4	7⅝
Towards defraying the extraordinaries of the army, &c.	262,537	7	10⅛
On account of Greenwich Hoſpital,	6,000	0	0
To the truſtees of the Britiſh Muſeum,	3,000	0	0
To the Levant Company, to be applied in aſſiſting the ſaid Company in carrying on their trade,	5,000	0	0
On account of the civil eſtabliſhment of Nova Scotia,	4,346	10	5
Ditto of Georgia,	3,086	0	0
Ditto of Eaſt Florida,	4,950	0	0
Ditto of Weſt Florida,	5,450	0	0
Ditto of Senegambia,	6,336	0	9½
On account of general ſurveys in North America,	1,885	4	0
For making out charts of Great Britain and Ireland,	2,145	0	0
Ditto of North America,	3,711	15	0
For repairing, &c. Britiſh forts and ſettlements on the coaſt of Africa,	13,000	0	0
To make good to his Majeſty the like ſum iſſued by his Majeſty's orders, in purſuance of the addreſſes of the Houſe of Commons,	12,578	14	9
For cleaning Barbadoes harbour,	5,000	0	0
To make good certain ſums expended in preventing diſtempers among the horned cattle,	1,684	15	10
On account of new roads and bridges in the Highlands of North Britain,	6,998	10	7
Further deficiency in the gold coin,	46,846	9	3
Extras of the mint,	22,824	19	9
Further expence of coinage,	11,716	0	1½
To make good the deficiency of the grants for the ſervice of 1774,	607,974	10	7¼
For paying off certain Exchequer bills,	1,250,000	0	0
Total Supplies,	5,556,453	3	7

The Ways and Means for raiſing the foregoing ſupplies.	£.	s.	d.
Duty on malt,	750,000	0	0
Land tax at 3s.	1,500,000	0	0
From the ſinking fund, 5th of January,	11,239	10	0
Ditto, 5th of April,	884,447	3	10¼
Ditto, growing produce,	1,904,313	6	1¾
By Exchequer bills,	1,250,000	0	0
By a lottery,	150,000	0	0
American revenues,	15,000	0	0
Gum Senecca,	5,000	0	0
French prize-money,	17,000	0	0
Sale of the ceded iſlands,	50,000	0	0
By ſurpluſſes of certain duties remaining in the Exchequer,	22,246	9	0
Total of Ways and Means,	6,559,246	9	0
Supplies granted,	5,556,453	3	7
Exceſs of proviſions,	1,002,793	5	5

The

1775 The number of chriſtenings and burials from December 13, 1774, to December 14, 1775, within the London bills of mortality, is as follows:—

Christened.		Buried.	
Males,	8,876	Males,	10,134
Females,	8,753	Females,	10,380
In all,	17,629	In all,	20,514

At Paris, during this year, the births were 19,650,—viz. 10,247 boys, and 9,403 girls;—the deaths, 18,400; and the marriages, 5,016.—The children admitted into the foundling hoſpital of that city amounted to 6,505.

1776 The ſpeech from the throne, on the 26th of October, in the laſt year, announced an actual ſtate of rebellion in the North American colonies, and ſet forth the neceſſity of employing a ſufficient force to ſuppreſs it. His Majeſty then entered into the difference that ſubſiſted between the views of thoſe who fomented and took the lead in this rebellion, and thoſe of the Crown and Parliament. The view of the latter was rather to undeceive than to puniſh: a ſmall number of forces, therefore, was only ſent, and propoſitions of a conciliatory nature accompanied the means taken to enforce authority. The former, whilſt they endeavoured to delude with ſpecious profeſſions, had in view nothing but the eſtabliſhment of an independent empire. That the ſpirit of the Britiſh nation was too high, and its reſources too numerous, to ſuffer her tamely to loſe what had been acquired with great toil, nurſed with great tenderneſs, and protected at much expence of blood and treaſure.—That wiſdom, and, in the end, clemency, required a full exertion of theſe reſources.—That the navy had been increaſed, and the land forces greatly augmented: foreign ſuccours, though no treaty was then concluded, were held out; and the diſpoſition of the Hanoverian troops in Mahon and Gibraltar, was ſpecified.—In the end, an aſſurance of the royal mercy was given, as ſoon as the deluded multitude ſhould become ſenſible of their error; and to prevent the inconveniencies which might ariſe from the great diſtance of their ſituation, and to remove as ſoon as poſſible the calamities which they ſuffer, authority would be given to certain perſons on the ſpot, to grant general or particular pardons and indemnities, in ſuch manner, and to ſuch perſons, as they ſhould think fit; and to receive the ſubmiſſion of any province or colony which ſhould be diſpoſed to return to its allegiance. It was alſo obſerved, that it might be proper to authoriſe ſuch commiſſioners to reſtore any province or colony, returning to its allegiance, to the free exerciſe of its trade and commerce, and to the ſame protection and ſecurity as if it had never revolted. It was alſo added, that from the general appearance of affairs in Europe, there was no apparent probability that the meaſures which might be adopted would be interrupted by diſputes with any foreign power.

The ſentiments of Parliament correſponded with thoſe of the crown; and as it was now become a determined point with government to ſupport the legiſlative authority and commercial controul of Great Britain over the colonies, ſuch meaſures were propoſed to Parliament, and adopted by it, as were thought to be moſt conducive to that end. Among theſe was the prohibitory bill which was brought in at the commencement of this ſeſſion; and, after a ſucceſſion of debates, in which the reſources of argument and eloquence were exhauſted, it was carried by great majorities in both Houſes.

This

A. D. 1776 This bill totally interdicted all trade and intercourſe with the thirteen united colonies, and declared all property of Americans, whether of ſhips or goods, on the high ſeas or in harbour, forfeited to the captors, being the officers and crews of his Majeſty's ſhips of war; and ſeveral clauſes were inſerted to facilitate and to leſſen the expence of the condemnation of prizes, as well as the recovery of prize money. This bill, beſides its primary object, repealed the Boſton port-bill, with the fiſhery and reſtraining acts, as their proviſions, in ſome inſtances, were deemed inſufficient in the then ſtate of warfare, and as their operation in others was liable to interfere with that of the intended law.—It alſo enabled the crown to appoint commiſſioners, who, beſides the power of granting pardons to individuals, were authoriſed to enquire into general and particular grievances, and empowered to determine whether any part, or the whole of a colony, were returned to that ſtate of obedience which might entitle them to be received within the King's protection; in which caſe, upon a declaration from the commiſſioners, the reſtrictions enacted by the preſent bill were to ceaſe in their favour.

At a quarterly general court of proprietors of Eaſt India ſtock, held at their houſe in Leadenhall-ſtreet, it appeared that the debt to government was reduced from 1,400,000l. to 420,000l. and that the Company was otherwiſe in a flouriſhing ſituation.

It would certainly be an act of negligence in us, if we were entirely to paſs by a matter, which, about this time, made a great noiſe in the city, occaſioned much diſcontent amongſt the merchants, and was, at length, though without effect, brought into both houſes of Parliament.

A clauſe in the late prohibitory act, which enabled the admiralty to grant licences to veſſels for conveying ſtores and proviſions to the forces upon the American ſervice, had been made uſe of to countenance a trade in certain individuals; by which, it was ſaid, that a monopoly was formed, and the American trade was transferred from the ancient merchants, and known traders, to a few obſcure perſons, of no account or condition, and an illicit commerce eſtabliſhed, under the ſanction of that bill, which was utterly ſubverſive of one of its principal apparent objects.

It certainly appeared that theſe licences were very looſely compoſed, and very careleſsly granted; that the commiſſioners of the cuſtoms did not chuſe to interfere much in the matter; that though the licences were recalled, and ſome alterations made in them, this meaſure produced little effect; and that even when complaints grew loud, and ſomething like a parliamentary enquiry was announced or begun, though ſome of the goods were unſhipped, yet, in general, the ſcheme ſucceeded; the ſhips which had cleared out for Boſton, altering only the deſtination of their voyage, and taking a new clearance for Halifax and Canada, with liberty to go to any other port in America. It appeared in evidence before the Houſe of Commons, that by theſe, and other means, a greater quantity of all manner of goods calculated for the North American market, had been ſhipped within a few weeks, than was done in any of the uſual ſeaſons of exportation.

The great body of American merchants were loud in their complaints: they repreſented it to be a matter very injurious and unjuſt to them, who had already ſuffered ſo ſeverely in conſequence of the troubles of the times, and who, in obedience to the late act of Parliament, were at that very moment ſinking under the incumbrance of a vaſt quantity of goods, which they had purchaſed for the American market, and for which they could find no other,—to ſee the trade, that for a number of years they had conducted with the greateſt reputation and integrity, ſmuggled, as it were, out of their hands, by a ſet of nominal merchants and unknown adventurers.

1776 adventurers. The injury was alſo deſcribed as ſtill more grievous, from being committed under the colour of law, and with the licence of authority.

The firſt public attention that was paid to this buſineſs was in the Houſe of Lords; where the Earl of Effingham, ſome ſhort time before the receſs at Eaſter, made a motion, which was agreed to, that liſts of thoſe ſhips, and their cargoes, as well as the licences which were granted by the admiralty, ſhould be laid before the Houſe. There the matter reſted for ſome time:—But, on the 2d of May, the lord mayor moved in the Houſe of Commons for a committee to enquire into the whole tranſaction. In the courſe of the debate on this occaſion, the miniſter, after defending the meaſure on the principle of its being deſigned for the uſe, benefit, and comfort of the troops on the American ſervice, acknowledged that the powers given in the act had been miſunderſtood, and the licenſes abuſed, but that theſe matters were already rectified, and a ſtop put to the miſchief. A committee, however, was appointed, but was diſſolved after a very long debate and examination of witneſſes on the occaſion, without coming to any reſolution whatever.

The Congreſs of America began now ſtrongly to recommend the ſtudy and improvement of agriculture, arts, manufactures, and commerce in the United Colonies.

On the 23d of March, they iſſued letters of marque to cruize againſt the ſubjects of Great Britain: and at one of their aſſemblies, ſoon after, they came to a reſolution to permit trade with any nation but Great Britain and Ireland.

In conſequence of the provincial aſſembly of North Carolina recommending a declaration of independence and foreign alliance, ſeveral Americans of conſideration ſailed from New York, with propoſals from Congreſs to the principal courts of Europe.

About this period, the Empreſs Queen publiſhed an ordinance, prohibiting her ſubjects from all intercourſe with the Americans.

On the 3d of May, Lord Viſcount Howe, and Major-general Howe, were appointed his Majeſty's commiſſioners for reſtoring peace in America, with power of pardon, puniſhment, &c.—On the 11th of the ſame month, the Virginians publiſhed a declaration of rights and independence: and very ſhortly after, Congreſs conſidering the United Colonies as excluded by the capture acts from the protection of the crown, ſuppreſſed its authority.

On the 23d, his Majeſty put an end to this ſeſſion of Parliament by a ſpeech from the throne, which concluded in the following manner:—"I will ſtill hope that my rebellious ſubjects may be awakened to a ſenſe of their errors, and that by a voluntary return to their duty, they will juſtify me in bringing about the favourite wiſh of my heart, the reſtoration of harmony, and the re-eſtabliſhment of order and happineſs in every part of my dominions.—But if a due ſubmiſſion ſhould not be obtained from ſuch motives and ſuch diſpoſitions on their part, I truſt that I ſhall be able, under the bleſſing of Providence, to effectuate it by a full exertion of the great force with which you have entruſted me."—Notwithſtanding which, on the 4th of July, Congreſs declared the United States of America independent. This declaration (abjuring all allegiance to the Britiſh crown, and renouncing all political connections with this country) was read in every town in the colonies, and at the head of the continental army at New York.

While the principal powers of Europe ſtood coldly aloof, and ſeemed rather inclined to thwart, than forward the views of Great Britain with reſpect to her American colonies, we have one example of an ally who was faithful to treaties, and hoſtile to rebellion, wherever it might ariſe. Influenced by that good faith which ſhould ever govern nations, as well as the indi-

1776 individuals which compoſe them, his Moſt Faithful Majeſty, the King of Portugal, publiſhed the following edict on the 4th of July, in this year, prohibiting his ſubjects from any intercourſe with the Americans:—

"Whereas we have lately been informed, that the Britiſh colonies of North America have, by an act of Congreſs held on the 15th of May laſt, not only declared themſelves entirely free from all ſubjection to the crown of Great Britain, but were, moreover, actually employed in forming and enacting laws by their own private authority, in oppoſition to the lawful rights of our brother, friend, and ally, the King of Great Britain: and whereas ſo pernicious an example ought to engage every Prince, even thoſe it intereſts the leaſt, not to abet, favour, or aſſiſt, by any means, directly or indirectly, ſuch ſubjects united in ſuch direct and open rebellion againſt their natural ſovereign; it is our pleaſure, and we do hereby ordain, that no ſhip, with or without lading, coming from any of the ports of the aforeſaid Britiſh America, ſhall be allowed any intercourſe with, or entrance into any of the ports of theſe our kingdoms, or of the dominions thereunto belonging; but that, on the contrary, they ſhall be forced away immediately on their arrival, without ſuccour of any kind whatever: and that as to the maſters of veſſels who have hitherto been ſuffered to enter, (there not appearing reaſon for their being excluded) it ſhall be notified to them, that within the preciſe term of eight days, to be counted ſucceſſively, they ſhall quit the ſaid ports with their veſſels, which ſhall firſt be ſearched, in order to diſcover if they have any gun-powder on board, or any other of thoſe warlike ſtores, the export of which was prohibited to them by our royal decree of the 21ſt of October laſt, directed to the officers of our arſenal and exportation duties: and that if any ſuch ſtores or ammunition ſhall be found put on board by ſtealth, the ſaid veſſels, as a capture from declared rebels, ſhall be confiſcated for the uſe of carrying on the public buildings; and ſo be it underſtood by the council of our finances, which ſhall order printed copies of this our decree to be taken off, and fixed up in all the public places of the city of Liſbon, and all the parts of this kingdom and that of Algarve, that it may come to the knowledge of all, and that no one may plead ignorance thereof.

"*Palace of Acjuda, 4th of July*, 1776."

On the 7th of October following, his Moſt Catholic Majeſty likewiſe declared his neutrality with reſpect to Great Britain and America; as appears by a letter written by the Marquis de Grimaldi to the governor of Bilboa, relative to an American privateer, which had taken five Engliſh ſhips, and had been detained thereupon at the ſaid port, at the requeſt of the Engliſh vice-conſul, with the proceedings of the governor in conſequence thereof.—Of this letter, dated St. Ildefonſo, the 7th of October, we ſhall give the ſubſtance, as follows:—

"That having received advice from the governor of Bilboa reſpecting the detention of an American ſhip, named the Hawke, Captain John Lee, and the ſeveral atteſtations of the perſons concerned, which had been laid before his Majeſty, he had been pleaſed to declare, that in conſequence of the amity ſubſiſting between his Catholic Majeſty and the King of Great Britain, he ſhould maintain a perfect neutrality during the preſent war; that he ſhould not give any aid to the Coloniſts; but ſhould not deny their being admitted into any ports of his dominions, while they conformed to the laws of the country."

In conſequence of the above letter, the governor ſet at liberty the American veſſel, delivered back her papers, and ſupplied her with ſuch proviſions, water, &c. (care being taken that no prohibited goods ſhould be put on board) as ſhould enable her to proceed on her voyage.

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1776 The articles of confederation and perpetual union between the United States of America, were ſigned on the 4th of October, in this year, by all the delegates in Congreſs. After a forcible ſtatement of the reaſons for making this change in the government and conſtitution of North America, the declaration concludes as follows :—

"We, therefore, the repreſentatives of the United States of America, in general Congreſs aſſembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the name, and by the authority of the good people of theſe colonies, ſolemnly publiſh and declare, that theſe United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES;—that they are abſolved from all allegiance to the Britiſh crown; and that all political connection between them and the ſtate of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally diſſolved; and that, as free and independent ſtates, they have full power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, eſtabliſh commerce, and do all other acts and things which independent ſtates have a right to do.—And, for the ſupport of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our ſacred honour.—Signed by order, and in behalf of the Congreſs,

"JOHN HANCOCK, *Preſident.*
"CHARLES THOMSON, *Secretary.*"

On the 31ſt of October, the ſeſſion of Parliament was opened.—In the ſpeech delivered from the throne, it was repreſented, among other particulars, that the people of America had not only renounced their allegiance to the crown, and their political connection with this country, but rejected, with circumſtances of indignity and inſult, the means of conciliation held out to them by the commiſſion ſent out for that purpoſe.—That if their reſiſtance continued unſuppreſſed, much miſchief would enſue to the commerce of Great Britain, and to the political ſyſtem of Europe, &c. &c.

By a proclamation iſſued the 12th of April, in this year, for the regulation of the gold coin of this kingdom, and which took place on the 1ſt of May, the following was the ſtandard ſettled, and allowed to be current in any payment whatever in Great Britain, viz.

Guineas coined prior to the 1ſt of January, 1772, weighing 5 dwts. 8 grs.—half-guineas, 2 dwts. 16 grs.—and quarter-guineas, 1 dwt. 8 grs.—Guineas, however, coined prior to the ſaid period, weighing 5 dwts. 6 grs.—half-guineas, 2 dwts. 14 grs.—and quarter-guineas, 1 dwt. 7 grs.; were, till the 19th of Auguſt, 1776, incluſively, received in payments at the Exchequer, the Bank of England, and at all the revenue offices throughout the kingdom.—Certain perſons were likewiſe appointed by the lords commiſſioners of the Treaſury and the Bank of England, to receive and exchange all gold of the laſt-mentioned ſtandard, in every city and principal town in the different counties, &c. of Great Britain.

On the 11th of November, in this year, Mr. David Hartley, then member of Parliament for Kingſton upon Hull, made the ſixth and laſt experiment to evince the efficacy of a new, cheap, and eaſy method, invented by him, for preſerving houſes, ſhips, &c. built with the moſt combuſtible materials, from fire.

Mr. Hartley had built an houſe expreſsly for the purpoſe, which conſiſted of three ſtories, and with two large rooms on a floor, where he had made his former experiments. The manner in which he conducted them on the preſent occaſion was as follows :—

He firſt ordered a fire to be made on the deal flooring of one of the ground-rooms: then a large faggot of ſhavings, ſuſpended by iron from the upper part of the ſame room, was ſet on fire. After this, the ſtair-caſe was ſet on fire, both above and below, without the fire extending,

A. D. 1776 ing, in either caſe, beyond the ſpot on which it was lighted. Laſtly, the other room on the ground-floor, filled almoſt to the top with faggots, pitch, and other combuſtibles, was ſet fire to; but though they all burned in ſuch a manner as to vomit forth a perpetual torrent of flame and ſmoke, and thereby rendered all approach within thirty yards of the windows, on the outſide, abſolutely impracticable, the room adjoining to, and that immediately over this temporary Veſuvius, continued as cool and as acceſſible as if no fire had happened in the houſe.

Nor were its walls, floors, and cielings alone preſerved; for even fixtures and houſehold furniture were thereby rendered proof againſt the rage of this otherwiſe all-devouring element, though found, at the ſame time, ſufficient to prepare iron for the anvil; particularly, a bed being purpoſely ſet on fire, little more of it was conſumed than the part to which the fire had been immediately applied.

But ſingular as the effects of this contrivance for ſecuring houſes, ſhips, and other buildings from fire, muſt appear, the means, perhaps, from their perfect ſimplicity, may be thought equally extraordinary. They conſiſt of nothing more than the thinneſt plates of iron nailed to the joiſts, &c.; and to the facility of execution, may be added the cheapneſs of it, as the additional expence of building ſcarce exceeds three per cent.

The Newfoundland fiſhery, in the preſent year, did not in any degree anſwer the expectations, which were held out in the preceding ſeſſion, of the eaſe with which the great American ſhare of it would be immediately transferable to the people of Great Britain, and the ſignal advantages which they would derive from thence. For though there was ſome increaſe of ſhips and men, both from England and Ireland, employed in the fiſhery, they were not in any manner equal to ſupplying the deficiency which the late law had occaſioned, even ſuppoſing that no new obſtacles were thrown in their way, and that all other matters had continued in their uſual ſtate. But the retaliation which was practiſed by the Americans, of cutting off our fiſheries from all proviſions and ſupplies from the colonies, (a meaſure, which, however obvious, does not ſeem to have been apprehended till it was felt) threw the whole buſineſs upon the banks of Newfoundland into the greateſt diſorder and confuſion, and brought diſtreſs upon all who were employed by ſea or land. To prevent the conſequences of famine, a number of ſhips, inſtead of being laden with fiſh, were neceſſarily ſent off light, to procure flour and other proviſions wherever they were to be had: ſo that the firſt operation of the fiſhery bill was attended with very great loſs and diſadvantage to this country.

We cannot but conſider the vaſt ſupplies which were ſent to the army at Boſton as a commercial circumſtance, and ſhall therefore juſt mention the articles of which they conſiſted.

As the want of freſh proviſions of every ſort was one of the principal grievances which the Britiſh troops at Boſton had ſuſtained, and had cauſed a very general ſickneſs among them, the remedy of that evil was an object that called for a very attentive conſideration. On this account great quantities of cattle, &c. were contracted for, and ſhipped for America. No leſs than 5,000 oxen, 14,000 of the largeſt ſheep, and a vaſt number of hogs were ſent out alive. Vegetables of all kinds were alſo bought up in quantities that are ſcarcely credible, and new methods were contrived to preſerve them; and 10,000 butts of beer were added to the enormous catalogue of neceſſaries on the occaſion. But this is not all;—5,000 chaldrons of coals were purchaſed in the river, and ſhipped off for Boſton; and even the article of faggots was ſent from London. The ſeemingly trifling neceſſaries of vegetables, caſks, and vinegar alone, amounted to 22,000l.; and though we had but a ſingle regiment of light cavalry at Boſton, the articles of hay, oats, and beans, amounted to almoſt as much. Beſides the expence

A. D. 1776 pence of theſe articles we have mentioned, and the charge of flour, corn, and ſalted proviſions, near half a million of Spaniſh and Portugueſe coin was tranſmitted for the extraordinary and contingent articles in various branches of military operations. Nor muſt it be omitted in the hiſtory of this extraordinary, novel, and, as it turned out, (from cauſes which we ſhall not enumerate) almoſt uſeleſs exportation, that from the multitude of tranſports employed in the different parts of the ſervice, the price of tonnage was raiſed above one-fourth of its uſual rate.

A commercial company was about this time formed at Paris, under the name of the *Caiſſe d'Eſcompte*, or Diſcount Office; an eſtabliſhment with a fund of 15,000,000 of livres. They contracted to diſcount bills and notes, both in peace and war, without ever exceeding the rate of 4 per cent.; and bound themſelves to this ſingle branch of buſineſs, the gold and ſilver trade, and the receipt of voluntary depoſits of caſh, without meddling in any other matters whatever. The French boaſted, at the time, that this eſtabliſhment was an improvement on the plan of the Bank of England, and iſſued out notes in imitation of it.

The charter of the Dutch Eaſt India Company having expired in the year 1773, the Company, after ſtating that its trade had declined, ſolicited the States General to grant a diminution of the ſum formerly paid for the renewal of the charter. Upon this repreſentation, their High Mightineſſes, in order to have time to enquire into the matter, prolonged the charter for three years, upon the old eſtabliſhment; and finding, upon examination, that the Company had really ſuſtained great loſſes, and its trade conſiderably declined, they acted with the ſpirit of a wiſe commercial commonwealth, by complying with the Company's requeſt. They therefore granted them a new charter for thirty years, on the ſame terms as the former, on the immediate payment of 2,000,000 of florins, inſtead of 3,000,000, which they paid before, and the ſum of 360,000 florins yearly; which annual payment they were allowed to make either in money or merchandize. In conſequence of this indulgence, the ſtock of the Company roſe, in a ſhort time, no leſs than 19 per cent.

We ſhall make no apology for mentioning that in this year, and in the 84th of a very uſeful life, died Mr. John Harriſon, the inventor and conſtructor of the celebrated time-keepers for aſcertaining the longitude at ſea. This very ingenious and indefatigable man had received, as a reward for his diſtinguiſhed and important labours, ſeveral thouſand pounds of the money offered by Parliament for facilitating the means of diſcovering the longitude.

Dr. Price gives the following account of the progreſs of the national debt, from 1739 to the year 1775.

	Principal. £.	*Intereſt.* £.
Amount of the principal and intereſt of the national debt before the war, which began in 1740, —	46,382,650	1,903,961
Amount in 1749, immediately after the war, —	78,166,906	2,765,608
Increaſed by the war, — —	31,784,256	861,747
Diminiſhed by the peace from 1748 to 1755, —	3,089,641	111,590
Amount at the commencement of the war in 1755,	75,077,264	2,654,018
Amount at the end of the war in 1763, —	146,582,844	4,840,822
Increaſed by that war, — —	71,505,580	2,186,803
Diminiſhed by the peace in 12 years, from 1763 to 1775,	10,639,793	400,000
Amount at Midſummer 1775 —	135,943,051	4,440,821

The

A. D. 1776 The annual revenues of the Ruſſian empire were, at this time, authentically ſtated at 17,130,618 roubles; and the expences, including penſions, preſents, &c. at 14,208,557.—The value of the rouble is about 10s. ſterling.

By an account of the hop duty for this year, its amount appears to be 125,691l. 13s. 7½d.

The number of ſhips cleared at the port of Newcaſtle, from December 31, 1775, to December 31, 1776, was 4,773; of which 4,343 were coaſters, and 430 for foreign trade.

The following bills relating to trade and commerce received the royal aſſent this year.

To diſcontinue the duties payable on the importation of tallow, hog's lard and greaſe, for a limited time.

To continue an act for laying a duty of two pennies Scots on all beer and ale brewed for ſale in Dundee.

For making a navigable cut or canal from or near Stourbridge, in Worceſterſhire, to join the Staffordſhire and Worceſterſhire canals, at or near Stourton, in Staffordſhire.

To build an iron bridge acroſs the river Severn, from Benthallin, Salop, to the oppoſite ſhore at Madeley Wood.

For the better ſupplying of marines and ſeamen to ſerve in his Majeſty's ſhips of war, and on board merchant ſhips.

[By this act, it was enacted, that all trading ſhips ſhould be allowed to be navigated with three-fourths of their crew foreigners, till the 25th of March, 1777].

For the better regulation of the pilots conducting ſhips and veſſels into and out of the port of Boſton, in Lincolnſhire, and for preventing miſchiefs by fire in the ſaid haven and harbour.

To remove the danger of fire amongſt the ſhips in the port of Briſtol.

For granting a bounty on flax ſeed, the growth of the Auſtrian Netherlands, imported into Ireland.

For granting to his Majeſty ſeveral duties upon coaches and other carriages, alſo upon indentures, leaſes, bonds, and other deeds; likewiſe upon cards, dice, and newſpapers; and for raiſing two millions by annuities and a lottery.

[By the coach act, an additional duty of 20s. per ann. is laid on all coaches, berlins, &c. except hackney coaches; and a duty of 5l. per ann. on ſtages. The clauſe of the act of the 20th of George I. exempting perſons from paying for more than five carriages, is hereby repealed: and by the new act with reſpect to ſtamps, an additional duty of 1s. is laid on all indentures, bonds, &c. heretofore liable to a ſhilling ſtamp; an additional duty of 6d. on every pack of playing cards, and 2s. 6d. on every pair of dice made for ſale; an additional duty of one-halfpenny on every ſheet or half ſheet of newſpaper. Commiſſioners to provide a new ſtamp, to denote all the ſeveral duties; and after July the fifth of this year, all vellum, &c. liable to the new duty, to be carried to the ſtamp office, &c. before it is printed or wrote on. Perſons counterfeiting ſtamps, to ſuffer death as felons. Selling cards to be played with, after the cover has been broken open, 5l. penalty].

For the relief of inſolvent debtors and bankrupts, in certain caſes.

[By returns made from the different gaols throughout the kingdom, it appears, that there were at this time, upwards of 8,000 debtors waiting to take the benefit of this Act].

For erecting light-houſes and land marks in the port of Cheſter, for the better ſecurity of ſhipping.

1776 For the further encouragement of the whale fiſhery, carried on from Great Britain and Ireland.

For allowing the exportation of a certain quantity of wheat and other articles to the ſugar colonies in America, and to the iſland of St. Helena and other ſettlements belonging to the Eaſt India Company.

For allowing corn, grain and flour, imported into the port of Preſton, to be landed without payment of the duties.

For draining, improving, and preſerving certain fen and waſte lands near Sandwich.

SUPPLIES granted by Parliament for the year 1776.	£.	s.	d.
For 20,752 land forces, including 3,213 invalids, &c. —	659,200	2	$10\frac{7}{8}$
For maintaining garriſons, &c. in the Plantations and Africa,	723,432	11	$7\frac{3}{4}$
Britiſh and Iriſh pay for troops in America, —	42,530	19	4
For the pay of the general and ſtaff officers, &c. —	11,505	7	3
Levy money for augmentation of the Britiſh and Iriſh forces for 1776,	104,136	6	0
For five Hanoverian battalions of foot at Gibraltar and Minorca, from September 1, to December 24, 1775, —	26,783	15	$2\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto for 1776, — — — —	46,838	1	9
Charge of a regiment of Highlanders, conſiſting of two battalions,	47,400	12	0
Charge of augmentation to his Majeſty's forces to December 24, 1775,	80,984	13	2
Ditto extra ſaving grants laſt ſeſſions, — —	7,938	15	0
For the out-penſioners of Chelſea, &c. —	107,512	10	0
On account of reduced officers of the land forces, &c. —	97,575	12	0
For allowances to certain officers and gentlemen of the two reduced troops of horſe guards, &c. — — —	850	19	6
For the penſions payable to widows of certain reduced officers,	608	0	0
On account of 12,394 Heſſians, for 1776. — —	381,887	4	$5\frac{1}{2}$
For 4,300 Brunſwickers for ditto, — —	121,475	12	1
For one regiment of Hanau, from March 6, to December 24, being 294 days, — — —	19,006	19	$3\frac{3}{4}$
For ſix regiments of foot from Ireland, and other augmentations, to December 24, 1776, — — —	137,448	7	9
For the extraordinaries of the army, &c. — —	845,165	14	$8\frac{1}{4}$
For 28,000 ſeamen, including 6,665 marines, &c. —	1,456,000	0	0
For the ordinary of the navy, — —	426,904	19	6
Towards building and repairs of ſhips, &c. —	339,151	0	0
For Greenwich Hoſpital, — — —	5,000	0	0
Towards the diſcharge of the navy debt,	1,000,000	0	0
For the office of ordnance for the land ſervice —	249,655	18	6
For ditto, not provided for by Parliament in 1775,	223,171	11	11
On account of making roads and building bridges in the Highlands of North Britain, — — — —	6,996	10	2
For the maintenance of Weſtminſter bridge, — —	2,000	0	0
For repairing, &c. the Britiſh forts on the coaſt of Africa,	13,000	0	0
On account of general ſurveys in North America, —	1,885	4	0
Carried over,	7,186,047	7	$4\frac{5}{8}$

	£.	s.	d.
Brought over,	7,186,047	7	$4\frac{5}{8}$
To make good to his Majeſty the like ſum which has been iſſued, by his Majeſty's orders, in purſuance of addreſſes of Parliament,	7,406	0	3
On account of the civil eſtabliſhment of Nova Scotia,	4,346	10	5
Ditto of Georgia,	3,086	0	0
Ditto of Eaſt Florida,	4,950	0	0
Ditto of Weſt Florida,	4,063	19	3
Ditto of Senegambia,	6,336	0	9
Expence of and loſs by coinage,	92,421	15	1
For paying off certain Exchequer bills,	1,250,000	0	0
To make good the deficiency of the grants for the year 1775,	538,920	4	9
Total of ſupplies,	9,097,577	17	$10\frac{5}{8}$

WAYS and MEANS for raiſing the foregoing ſupplies.	£.	s.	d.
Land tax, at 4s.	2,000,000	0	0
Duty on malt, &c.	750,000	0	0
Surplus in the ſinking fund on the 5th of January,	17,869	4	$11\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto, on the 5th of April,	962,571	16	2
Growing produce of the ſinking fund,	1,837,428	3	10
Gum ſeneca,	2,000	0	0
French prize money,	17,000	0	0
By certain ſavings in the Pay-office,	23,011	7	0
By the ſale of ceded iſlands,	30,000	0	0
Exchequer bills,	1,500,000	0	0
Surplus of American revenues	2,905	8	2
By certain ſurpluſſes remaining in the Exchequer,	11,444	4	$3\frac{1}{4}$
By annuities and lottery at 3 per cent.	2,000,000	0	0
Total Ways and Means,	9,154,230	4	$4\frac{3}{4}$
Total Supplies,	9,097,577	17	$10\frac{7}{8}$
Exceſs of Proviſions,	56,652	6	$5\frac{7}{8}$

☞ The ſtate of the national debt remains the ſame as in our laſt account of it.

A general account of the chriſtenings and burials within the bills of mortality in London, for this year.

CHRISTENED.		BURIED.	
Males,	8,859	Males,	9,499
Females,	8,421	Females,	9,549
Total,	17,280	Total,	19,048

On

1777 On the 10th of February, a bill for enabling the Admiralty to grant letters of marque and repriſal, to the owners or captains of private merchant ſhips, authorizing them to take and make prize of all veſſels with their effects, belonging to any of the inhabitants of the thirteen ſpecified revolted American Colonies, was paſſed without debate or oppoſition in the Houſe of Commons. In the Houſe of Lords, it only underwent the trifling alteration of inſerting the words, *Letters of Permiſſion* in the place of *Letters of Marque*, the latter being thought applicable only to repriſals on a foreign enemy.

This was a very neceſſary meaſure, as every claſs of mercantile men throughout the kingdom, began to make heavy complaints of the loſſes they now ſuſtained from the war with America.

The American privateers now extended their cruizes to every part of Europe as well as the Weſt Indies, and they were in general received with an open or clandeſtine countenance, in all the ports which they entered with their prizes.

At length they grew more bold, and, at this time, infeſted the coaſts of Great Britain and Ireland with a degree of audacity that at once ſurpriſed and alarmed the trading part of the kingdom. Their language, appearance, &c. being the ſame as thoſe of the Britiſh ſubjects, they were enabled to diſguiſe their deſigns till they were ſure of executing them with ſucceſs. In ſhort, the trade between Great Britain and Ireland was interrupted by them to ſuch a degree, that it became abſolutely neceſſary to eſtabliſh convoys in the narrow channel which ſeparates the two iſlands. Nay, ſo much alarm had the American privateers occaſioned, that, to the diſgrace of our naval power and the injury of our commercial intereſt, no ſmall number of foreign veſſels, ſome of which were even French, were at this time freighted by Britiſh merchants, for the purpoſe of obtaining ſecurity to their commerce.

The Britiſh navy and privateers at length, however, exerted themſelves with ſuch activity, that the American cruizers were driven from our coaſts, and the loſſes of the colonies became, by degrees, much greater, and were more ſeverely felt than thoſe of Great Britain. But another power now began to unfold its future deſigns againſt us.

France, at this time, manifeſted an evident diſpoſition to favour the revolt of America. The part ſhe now acted was leſs circumſpect than it had hitherto been; but as her naval preparations were not in ſuch a degree of forwardneſs as to juſtify her taking a deciſive part, ſhe ſtill continued to diſſemble; and as her negociations with the Americans were not advanced to an abſolute determination, ſhe occaſionally relaxed in certain points, when ſhe found herſelf ſo cloſely preſſed by the Britiſh miniſters, that an obſtinate perſeverance would precipitate matters to that concluſion, which ſhe wiſhed to defer to a more favourable moment.

Thus, when a bold American adventurer, of the name of Cunningham, had, in a privateer fitted out at Dunkirk, taken and carried into that port, the Engliſh packet from Holland, and ſent the mail to the American miniſters at Paris, it appeared to be abſolutely neceſſary, in ſome degree, to diſcountenance ſuch a flagrant violation of good neighbourhood, as well as of the ſubſiſting treaties between the two nations, and even of the particular marine laws and regulations eſtabliſhed in France, in regard to her conduct towards the ſubjects of other countries. Cunningham and his crew were accordingly committed for ſome ſhort time, to priſon. Yet this appearance of ſatiſfaction was done away by the circumſtances which attended it: for the impriſonment of this man was repreſented to the Americans, as proceeding merely from ſome informality in his commiſſion, and irregularity in his proceedings, which had brought him to, if not within the verge of piracy, and were too glaring to be entirely paſſed by without

A. D. 1777 out notice. However, he and his crew were not only ſpeedily releaſed from their mock confinement, but he was permitted to purchaſe, fit out and arm, a much ſtronger veſſel and better ſailor than the former, avowedly to continue his capture of Britiſh ſhips.

It was in the ſame line of policy, that when the French Newfoundland fiſhery would have been totally intercepted and deſtroyed in caſe of an immediate rupture with this country, and that the capture of their ſeamen would have been more ruinous and irreparable than the loſs even of the ſhips and cargoes, Lord Stormont, the Britiſh ambaſſador at the French court, obtained in that critical ſituation, an order from the miniſters, that all the American privateers, with their prizes, ſhould immediately depart the kingdom. Yet, ſatisfactory as this compliance, and concluſive as this order appeared, it was combated with ſuch ingenuity, and ſuch artful expedients were practiſed to defeat its effects, that it was not followed by a ſingle compliance in any one port of France. It, however, anſwered the purpoſe for which it was intended, of gaining time, and opening a ſubject of tedious and indeciſive controverſy, until the French Newfoundland fleet had arrived in its reſpective ports.

Indeed, the French miniſter of the marine and great advocate of the American cauſe, appears to have been determined, that, whatever charges of duplicity might be brought againſt his country, they ſhould not reſt perſonally with himſelf. For, upon the propagation of certain reports which tended to diſcourage the commerce with the Americans, as if the court would not protect its ſubjects in conveying the products of America in their veſſels, which would accordingly become legal prizes to the Engliſh if taken, aſſured the ſeveral chambers of commerce by a public inſtrument, and in direct contravention of all our navigation laws, that the King was determined to afford the fulleſt protection to their commerce, and would reclaim all ſhips which might be taken under that pretext.

Upon the whole, however friendly the language and temporizing profeſſions of France might have been at this time, her conduct was too unequivocal to impoſe on any. It indeed required no great ſagacity to diſcover, that ſhe had an object in view which was at once calculated, in a very eminent degree, to flatter her ambition and forward her intereſts. But ſhe yet waited the event of the American campaign, and the completion of naval equipments, which were proceeding with the greateſt diligence and in the moſt public manner at Breſt and Toulon, before ſhe would riſque the taking an avowed and deciſive part.

The ſupine conduct of the Britiſh miniſters at this period, can be reconciled to no principle of duty to their country, and can find no better excuſe than the certain hope they fondly entertained, that the American campaign would be attended with ſuch a complete and deciſive ſucceſs, as would effectually check all the deſigns of France, to take a part in the diſpute between Great Britain and America.

A tranſaction of a very extraordinary nature in the Eaſt Indies, and which ended in a revolution, and the total ſubverſion of the eſtabliſhed government in our principal ſettlement on the coaſt of Coromandel, together with ſeveral ſubſequent proceedings relative to it, at the meetings of the directors and proprietors of the Eaſt India Company, occaſioned their affairs to become again the ſubject of parliamentary attention.

The Nabob of Arcot had, from the protection and alliance of the Eaſt India Company, grown to very great power, and, as it was rather reaſonably ſuſpected, to an uncontrouled influence, not only over the natives, but even over the Britiſh ſettlements, in the principal of which he had fixed his reſidence.

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Whatever foundation there might have been for the ſuppoſition, that this Prince poſſeſſed an undue influence at Madras, it is certain, that an enterprize which was undertaken by the Company's forces in that preſidency, in conjunction with thoſe of the Nabob, afforded too much colour to ſuch an opinion, and unhappily contributed its full ſhare, along with other eaſtern exorbitancies, deeply to affect our national character both in Europe and Aſia. This was the famous expedition to Tanjour, an enterprize which has been heard of in every part of the world, and which has been condemned for its cruelty and injuſtice wherever it has been heard.

Some pecuniary diſputes between the Nabob and the Rajah of Tanjour, furniſhed a pretext for the former to make war upon the latter, and the powers at Madras were eaſily prevailed upon to aſſiſt their friend of Arcot. The King of Tanjour was not able to withſtand the united force of the Company and the Nabob. After defending his capital with the utmoſt bravery, he was at length ſubdued and ſtripped of every thing but life, while his ſubjects, who were among the moſt induſtrious people of India, experienced all the cruelty and rapacity of a Mahometan conqueſt.

The account of this tranſaction, with all the circumſtances of the conqueſt, ſpoil and ruin of a friend and ally, in a manner ſo unexampled, excited the greateſt indignation in the Company, when it arrived in England. Nor were they without apprehenſions for the ſafety of their ſettlements, when they conſidered the aſcendency over the councils and actions of their ſervants, of which the Nabob of Arcot was now ſo evidently poſſeſſed.

The violent depoſition of the Rajah of Tanjour, with all its circumſtances, was ſo contrary to the policy of the Company and to the ſpirit of its orders, that it was immediately determined to reſtore him to his dominions; but this was a buſineſs of no common difficulty. The Company wiſhed to avoid, if poſſible, a quarrel with the Nabob, nor were they diſpoſed, in the preſent poſture of affairs, to urge matters to an extremity with their ſervants for what was paſt. It became neceſſary, therefore, to ſend ſome perſon out as governor of Madras, who ſhould be inveſted with full powers to execute this difficult but delicate deſign, and who poſſeſſed a variety of rare qualities equal to the important office.

It was natural therefore for the Company to look up to Lord Pigot, as one calculated in every particular, to give the moſt happy effect to all the purpoſes of this commiſſion. His former adminiſtration in India had been fortunate, glorious and juſt: to him the Nabob of Arcot was indebted for his exalted ſituation: his civil government had been as celebrated as his military exploits, and his private virtues had ever won, as they well deſerved, the ſincereſt regard of all who knew him. To this important taſk Lord Pigot was appointed.

In the mean time, the Nabob was providing for every poſſible as well as expected conſequence of the Tanjour buſineſs. The long interval that elapſed before the arrival of Lord Pigot in his government, afforded a full exerciſe of his ability in intrigue. Although the part which they had already taken, would neceſſarily influence the conduct of the Engliſh preſidency in the meaſure of ſecuring to him, in perpetuity, the poſſeſſion of the kingdom of Tanjour, he was determined to take the moſt effectual method of fixing their intereſt, by borrowing large ſums of money from ſeveral members of the council, &c. and mortgaging the revenues of Tanjour to them, as a ſecurity both for the principal and a prodigious intereſt of thirty per cent.

Lord Pigot arrived in his government about the latter end of the year 1775, and ſucceeded ſo far in the execution of his commiſſion, as, in ſpite of the violent oppoſition he experienced,

A. D. 1777 to reſtore to the Rajah of Tanjour the poſſeſſion of his hereditary dominions. This meaſure procured him the mortal enmity of the Nabob, as well as the moſt determined oppoſition within his government; ſo that, in order to execute the commands of the Company, he found himſelf obliged to take a very ſtrong and bold meaſure, which was no leſs than to move for the ſuſpenſion of two of the council, and which his own caſting vote accompliſhed. By his ſupreme authority alſo in the fortreſs, he, for ſimilar reaſons, put under an arreſt Sir Robert Fletcher, the commander in chief of the forces.

A violent outcry was immediately raiſed by the ſecluded members againſt this act, and being too impatient to wait the deciſion of the Company on the ſubject, they formed a ſecret plot for ſecuring the perſon of the governor, and effecting a revolution in the ſettlement, which ſhould give the power entirely into their own hands. This deſign was ſhortly after executed with a degree of treachery, that it is not our buſineſs to particulariſe or obſerve upon. Lord Pigot was hurried away to a place of military confinement, where it appears, that his own extraordinary reſolution and natural fortitude alone preſerved him from immediate death.

The account of this revolution excited the greateſt ſurprize and indignation in the Company in general: whilſt the fate of Lord Pigot was conſidered with all that reſentment and humane apprehenſion, which the ſituation of ſuch an amiable and excellent man was calculated to inſpire. The preſiding faction at Madras and the Nabob of Arcot, were not, however, without their friends: they were not idle on the occaſion; and, to the ſurprize of people in general, the weight of government leaned to their ſide.

The whole of theſe tranſactions being laid before the Eaſt India proprietors at their quarterly court, on the 26th of March in this year, a reſolution was agreed upon by a very great majority, to recommend to the Court of Directors, to take the moſt effectual meaſures for reſtoring Lord Pigot to the full exerciſe of the powers veſted in him by the Company as governor of Madras, and for enquiring into the conduct of the principal actors in his impriſonment, &c.

In conſequence of this reſolution, ſeveral others were ſoon after paſſed in the Court of Directors, by which Lord Pigot was reſtored to the full exerciſe of his powers, and his four friends who had been ejected from the council were reinſtated. It was alſo reſolved, that ſeven members of the council, including the commander in chief of the forces, had violently ſubverted the government by a military force, and that they ſhould not only be ſuſpended from the Company's ſervice, but be cut off from any other means of reſtoration, than the immediate act of the Directors. A vote of cenſure was alſo paſſed in the Court of Directors, by a caſting voice, on Lord Pigot's conduct, as in ſome degree reprehenſible.

But while the inſtructions were preparing to accompany theſe reſolutions, the friends of the Nabob and his party, aſſiſted by the whole power of government, induſtriouſly brought forward three new reſolutions; the object of which was, to order Lord Pigot home immediately, to enquire into his conduct, and to recal both his friends and enemies in the council of Madras for the ſame purpoſe. Theſe reſolutions were carried by a majority of 97; and this deciſion induced Governor Johnſtone to bring the buſineſs before the Houſe of Commons.

That gentleman accordingly moved ſeveral reſolutions; upon which, if carried, he intended to found a bill for the better ſecuring our ſettlements in the Eaſt Indies. Theſe reſolutions went to a ſtrong approbation of Lord Pigot's conduct as governor; to a confirmation of thoſe late acts of the Company which had been paſſed in his favour, or in the condemnation of the faction at Madras; and to annul the reſolution for his recal. This motion, however, after a great length and ability, was rejected by a very ſmall majority.

1777 On the 21ſt of February, the following memorial was preſented by Sir Joſeph York to the States General of Holland.

"Since the commencement of the unnatural rebellion, which has broken out in the Engliſh colonies againſt the legal conſtitution of the mother country, the under-ſigned ambaſſador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the King of Great Britain, has had frequent occaſions to addreſs himſelf to your High Mightineſſes in the name of his maſter, to engage them by all motives of national intereſt, of good neighbourhood, of friendſhip, and finally of treaties, to put a ſtop to the clandeſtine commerce which is carried on between their ſubjects and the rebels. If the meaſures which your High Mightineſſes have thought proper to take, had been as efficacious as your aſſurances have been amicable, the under-ſigned would not now have been under the diſagreeable neceſſity of bringing to the cognizance of your High Mightineſſes, facts of the moſt ſerious nature.

"The King hath hitherto borne, with unexampled patience, the irregular conduct of your ſubjects in their intereſted commerce at St. Euſtatia, as alſo in America. His Majeſty has always flattered himſelf, that, in giving time to your High Mightineſſes to examine to the bottom of this conduct, ſo irregular and ſo inſufferable, they would have taken the meaſures neceſſary to correct the abuſe, to reſtrain their ſubjects within bounds, and to make them reſpect the rights and friendſhip of Great Britain.

"The complaints which I have orders to make to their High Mightineſſes, are founded upon authentic documents annexed to this memorial, where their High Mightineſſes will ſee with aſtoniſhment, and, I doubt not, at the ſame time, with diſpleaſure, that their new governor, Mr. Van Graaf, after having permitted an illicit commerce at St. Euſtatia, has ſo far forgotten his duty, as to connive at the Americans in their hoſtile equipments, and to permit the ſeizure of an Engliſh veſſel, by an American pirate, within cannon ſhot of that iſland: and in aggravation of the affront given to the Engliſh nation, and to all the powers of Europe, to return from the fortreſs of his government the ſalute of a rebel flag. In return to the amicable repreſentations made by the governor of the neighbouring iſland of St. Chriſtopher on theſe notorious facts, Mr. Van Graaf has anſwered in a manner the moſt vague and unſatisfactory, refuſing to enter at all into the ſubject, or into an explanation of the matter with a member of his Majeſty's council of St. Chriſtopher's, diſpatched by the governor, for that purpoſe, to St. Euſtatia.

"After exhibiting the documents annexed, nothing remains with me but to add, that the King, who had read them, not with leſs ſurprize than indignation, hath ordered me, to expreſsly demand of your High Mightineſſes, a formal diſavowal of the ſalute by Fort Orange, at St. Euſtatia, to the rebel ſhip, the diſmiſſion and immediate recal of Governor Van Graaf, and to declare further, on the part of his Majeſty, that until further ſatisfaction is given, they are not to expect that his Majeſty will ſuffer himſelf to be amuſed by mere aſſurances, or that he will delay one inſtant to take ſuch meaſures as he ſhall think due to the intereſts and dignity of his crown.

"(Signed) JOSEPH YORKE.

"Given at the Hague, February 21, 1777."

In anſwer to the above, the following memorial was delivered, by order of the States General to the court of Great Britain, by the envoy extraordinary and miniſter plenipotentiary of their High Mightineſſes.

"SIRE,

A. D. 1777

"SIRE,

"It is with the moſt profound reſpect, that the under-ſigned envoy extraordinary and plenipotentiary of their High Mightineſſes, in conſequence of the orders which he has received, has the honour to repreſent to your Majeſty, that the memorial which your ambaſſador hath preſented to their High Mightineſſes on the 21ſt of laſt month, has touched them very ſenſibly: that they find themſelves obliged to make complaint of the reproaches which are contained in it, as if their High Mightineſſes were to be ſuſpected of a will and intent of amuſing your Majeſty by amicable aſſurances, which they have falſified by their acts; alſo of the menacing tone which reigns in that memorial, and appears to their High Mightineſſes too highly ſtrained, beyond that which is uſually adopted and ought to take place between two ſovereign and independent powers, and eſpecially between two neighbouring powers, which have been, during ſuch a length of years, united by the ties of good harmony and mutual friendſhip.

"Their High Mightineſſes truſt, that on all occaſions, and particularly in reſpect to the unfortunate troubles of your Majeſty's colonies in America, they have held a conduct towards your Majeſty, which you had a right to expect from a good neighbour, and a friendly and affectionate power.

"Their High Mightineſſes, Sire, hold your Majeſty's friendſhip in the higheſt eſtimation, and wiſh to do every thing in their power, as far as the honour and dignity of their ſtate will permit, to cultivate it ſtill more and more: but they cannot, at the ſame time, ſo far reſtrain themſelves, as to diſguiſe the very poignant ſenſation with which that memorial has impreſſed them.

"It is alone from the motives of demonſtrating to your Majeſty every poſſible regard, and to prove that their High Mightineſſes will not neglect any thing, which may ſerve to inveſtigate properly the truth of the facts, from whence the complaints made to them ſeem to have ariſen, and that they have reſolved to inſtitute the moſt ſummary enquiry on the ſubject repreſented to them.

"To this end their High Mightineſſes, paſſing by the ordinary and uſual form in ſimilar caſes, requiring a report in writing from their officers and others employed in their colonies, have already diſpatched their orders to the commandant of St. Euſtatia, to return to the Republic without delay, and, as ſoon as poſſible, to give the neceſſary information of all that has paſſed within the iſland of St. Euſtatia, and whatever may have come to his knowledge relative to the American colonies and their veſſels, during the period of his command, and to lay his conduct, touching that matter, before the eyes of their High Mightineſſes.

"The under-ſigned is charged, by his orders, to bring the information of this reſolution to your Majeſty, as alſo that their High Mightineſſes make no difficulty of diſavowing, in the moſt expreſs manner, every act or mark of honour which may have been given by their officers or any of their ſervants, to the veſſels of your Majeſty's colonies of North America; or that they may give hereafter; ſo far as thoſe acts or marks of honour may be of ſuch a nature, as that it may be concluded from them, that it is thereby intended, in the leaſt degree, to recognize the independence of thoſe colonies.

"The under-ſigned is alſo further charged to inform your Majeſty, that their High Mightineſſes have, in conſequence, given their orders to their governors and councils in the Weſt Indies, and have enjoined them afreſh, in the ſtrongeſt terms, to obſerve exactly the placards

A. D.
1777 and orders againſt the exportation of military ſtores to the American Colonies of your Majeſty, and to ſee them executed with the utmoſt rigour.

"(Signed)

"Dated London, March 26, 1777." WELDEREN.

About this time, there was publiſhed at Peterſburgh an account of the commerce of that city for thirty years and upwards, taken up at the year 1724; of which we have ſelected only the following, as ſufficient to ſhew the great fluctuation of their trade during that period.

		Roubles.
In the year 1724,	the cuſtoms of that city produced only	10,335
1726,	they exceeded — —	84,695
1741,	from particular events, they fell in this year to	11,000
1752,	they produced, — —	203,734
1754,	the cuſtoms amounted to —	768,058
1757,	they brought in — —	1,000,713

On the 17th of October in this year, Lieutenant General Burgoyne and his army of 5,600 men, ordnance, ſtores, camp equipage, &c. ſurrendered, on convention, priſoners of war to Major General Gates, commander in chief of the American army, at Saratoga.

Congreſs (which was now removed to York Town, Pennſylvania) came to a reſolution, on the 22d of November, not to treat with Great Britain upon any terms, unleſs the independence of America was firſt acknowledged: this being totally rejected, they applied to the Court of France for aſſiſtance to eſtabliſh their independence; and, on the 24th of December preliminary articles of a treaty between that country and America were agreed upon at Paris, and ſent to Congreſs on the 27th of the ſame month.

Returns made from the poor rates to Parliament, ſtated to be from Eaſter 1775, to Eaſter 1776.

	£.	s.	d.
Money raiſed in England, — —	1,679,585	0	0
———— Wales, — —	40,731	14	7
Total,	1,720,316	14	7
Money expended on the poor in England, —	1,523,163	12	7
———— Wales, —	33,640	13	8
Total,	1,556,804	6	3
The county rates of England amounted to —	131,387	18	11
———— Wales were — —	6,268	11	9
Total,	137,656	10	8

In moſt of the northern counties the rates are raiſed ſeparately, and, therefore, are not included in theſe returns.

	Rents, &c.					*Litigation.*		
	£.	s.	d.			£.	s.	d.
	78,176	4	0	—		33,935	18	0
	2,120	10	7	—		1,136	2	8
Total,	80,296	14	7		Total,	35,072	0	8

From

A. D. 1777 From a ſurvey lately made by order of the French King, and laid before the ſupreme council at Paris, eſtabliſhed for the improvement of the French Weſt India ſettlements, it appeared, that the number of ſlaves in their iſlands, at this period, were as follows:

	Slaves.
St. Domingo, — —	240,000
Martinico, — —	75,000
Gaudaloupe, — —	64,000
St. Lucia, — — —	4,000
Cayenne, — — —	3,500
Total,	386,500

To ſupply the annual deficiency of which number, an annual importation of 20,000 negroes was aſſerted to be neceſſary.

In the courſe of this year, there was imported into London from Newcaſtle and Sunderland, 692,093$\frac{1}{4}$ chaldrons of coals, and 7,015 chaldrons of cinders and Scotch coals: 4,792 ſhips from the ſame places were alſo cleared at the cuſtom-houſe, 4,390 of which were coaſtwiſe, and 402 for foreign ports.

The following bills relating to trade and commerce, received the royal aſſent in the courſe of this year.

To enable his Majeſty to detain and ſecure perſons charged with high treaſon in America, or on the ſeas for piracy.

To enable the Lords of the Admiralty to grant letters of marque to private ſhips of war or merchant ſhips, to make repriſals on all ſhips belonging to the American colonies, in actual rebellion againſt Great Britain.

For regulating the affairs of the Eaſt India Company, as well in Europe as in India, ſo far as relates to altering the time for the choice of Directors.

To enlarge Mr. Hartley's patent, for his invention of iron plates to prevent the fatal conſequences of fires.

For improving the navigation of the river Thames from London-bridge to Staines.

For building a bridge over the river Severn, near Glouceſter.

For preventing frauds in combing wool.

For continuing the duty on beer in the town of Burnt Iſland, in Scotland.

For preventing frauds in the meaſurement of coals.

To prevent frauds by venders of tea, detrimental to the revenues of exciſe.

For allowing a drawback on tea exported to Ireland.

To prohibit, for a further limited time, the importation of foreign wrought ſilks and velvets.

To ſecure to engravers their property in the engraving branch.

For allowing certain quantities of wheat to be exported to the Weſt Indies.

To prevent the clandeſtine practice of unſhipping goods from on board Eaſt India ſhips.

For ſecuring the duties on ſoap and rum imported from the colonies.

For allowing the exportation of tobacco pipe clay to the Weſt India Iſlands.

For ſettling the hours of labour, and the prices of taking apprentices, in the hat manufactory.

1777 To allow the callico printers and dyers to employ journeymen who have not ſerved a regular apprenticeſhip to the ſaid trade.

For a better ſupply of mariners and ſeamen for manning the royal navy.

To enlarge the powers of an act, for making a navigable cut or canal, from the river Dee near Cheſter, to Nantwich and Middlewich, in Cheſhire.

For regulating the duties on damaged currants and prunes imported.

For granting certain duties on auctioneers, &c.

For continuing the encouragement of making indigo in the plantations, &c.

For regiſtering the grants of life annuities, and for the better protection of infants againſt ſuch grants.

To extend the proviſions of an act for negociating promiſſory notes, and inland bills of exchange, to a certain ſum.

[Of the annuity act, and that for reſtraining the negociation of bills of exchange, we ſhall give the following abſtracts].

"The firſt, after reciting in the preamble, that the pernicious practice of raiſing money by the ſale of life annuities, hath, of late years, greatly encreaſed, and is much promoted by the ſecrecy with which ſuch tranſactions are conducted; it is enacted, that a memorial of all deeds, bonds, &c. for granting life annuities, ſhall, within twenty days of the execution thereof, be enrolled in chancery; which ſhall contain the date, names of the parties, witneſſes, &c. and ſhall ſet forth the annual ſum or ſums to be paid, and the name of the perſon or perſons for whoſe life or lives the annuity is granted, and the conſideration or conſiderations of granting the ſame; otherwiſe every ſuch deed, bond, &c. ſhall be void.

"It further enacts, that before judgment ſhall be entered of record upon any warrant of attorney for recovering any annuity already granted, and before execution ſhall be ſued out, &c. on any judgment already entered, a memorial ſhall be enrolled as aforeſaid; otherwiſe all the proceedings in the actions to be void.

"It alſo enacts, that all future deeds for granting annuities, ſhall contain the conſideration and the names of the parties, in words at length: and that if any part of the conſideration ſhall be returned; or, in caſe the conſideration, or any part of it, is paid in notes, if any of the notes ſhall not be paid when due, or ſhall be cancelled or deſtroyed without being firſt paid; or if the conſideration, or any part of it, is paid in goods; or if any part of the conſideration is retained on pretence of anſwering the future payments of the annuity, or any other pretence; the court may order the deed to be cancelled, and the judgment, if any has been entered, to be vacated."

It next contains directions relating to the enrollment of memorials and the clerks fees.

"It then enacts, that all contracts for the purchaſe of annuities, with any perſon under twenty-one years of age, ſhall be void; and that any perſon who ſhall procure or ſolicit any minor to grant an annuity, or to make oath, or give his or her word of honour or ſolemn promiſe, that he or ſhe will not plead infancy, or make any other defence againſt the demand of any ſuch annuity, ſhall be puniſhed by fine or impriſonment.

"It alſo enacts, that ſolicitors, ſcriveners, brokers, &c. who ſhall take more than 10s. per cent. for procuring money for annuities, ſhall be puniſhed by fine or impriſonment; and that the perſon or perſons who ſhall have paid or given any ſum or ſums of money, gratuity or reward, ſhall be deemed a competent witneſs or witneſſes to prove the ſame, &c.

The

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The act for reſtraining the negotiation of bills, &c. recites, " that by an act of the fifteenth of this preſent reign, all negotiable promiſſory notes, &c. iſſued after the 24th of June, 1775, for leſs than 20s. were made void, and that all ſuch notes iſſued before that time were then made payable on demand."

It adds, " that the ſaid acts had been attended with very ſalutary effects; and ſuppoſes, that if the proviſions therein contained were extended to a further ſum, (but yet without prejudice to the convenience ariſing to the public from the negotiation of promiſſory notes, &c. for the remittance of money in diſcharge of any balance of account) the good purpoſe of the ſaid act would be further advanced. The legiſlature, therefore, have continued the prohibition of notes, &c. for any leſs ſum than 20s.; and enacted, that from and after the 24th of June, 1777, till the firſt day of January, 1778, all notes for any ſum between one and five pounds, ſhall be liable to payment on demand, whatever be the conditions contained in the ſaid notes, &c."

It alſo enacts, " that from and after the firſt day of January, 1778, all negotiable promiſſory notes, &c. for 20s. and leſs than 5l. ſhall be made payable at twenty-one days after date; and each indorſement thereon ſhall ſpecify the name and place of abode of the perſon to whoſe order the money is to be paid; and that the ſigning of every ſuch note, &c. or any indorſement on it, ſhall be atteſted by one ſubſcribing witneſs at the leaſt."

The following are the forms of promiſſory notes and drafts, and of indorſements, taken from the ſchedule annexed to this act.

(N°. I.)

[*Place*] [*Day*] [*Month*] [*Year*]
Twenty-one days after date, I promiſe to pay to A. B. of [*Place*]
or his order, the ſum of , for value received by
C. D.
Witneſs, E. F.

And the indorſement, toties quoties.
[*Day*] of [*Month*] [*Year*]
Pay the contents to G. H. [*Place*] or his order.
A. B.
Witneſs, J. K.

(N°. II.)

[*Place*] [*Day*] [*Month*] [*Year*]
Twenty-one days after date, pay to A. B. of [*Place*] or his order, the
ſum of , value received, as adviſed by
C. D.
To E. F. of
Witneſs, G. H.

And the indorſement, toties quoties.
[*Day*] [*Month*] [*Year*]
Pay the contents to J. K. of [*Place*] or his order.
A. B.
Witneſs, L. M.

A. D.
1777 Supplies granted by Parliament for this year :—

	£.	s.	d.
For 45,000 ſeamen, including 10,129 marines,	2,340,000	0	0
For the ordinary of the navy, including half-pay, &c.	400,805	2	10
Towards building and repairing ſhips, &c.	465,500	0	0
Towards diſcharging the navy debt,	1,000,000	0	0
On account of Greenwich Hoſpital,	4,000	0	0
For 20,734 effective land-forces, &c.	648,009	16	5
For the pay of the general and ſtaff-officers, &c.	11,473	18	6½
For maintaining forces and garriſons in the plantations, Africa, &c.	949,720	11	3
For the difference of pay between the Britiſh and Iriſh eſtabliſhments,	47,178	0	3
For five Hanoverian battalions ſerving at Gibraltar, &c.	56,074	19	4
For the charge of 12,677 Heſſian troops, &c. and ſubſidy,	336,932	1	6½
For a regiment of foot of Hanau,	18,181	15	6¼
Ditto of Waldeck,	17,370	1	2¾
Ditto of Heſſian chaſſeurs, with the ſubſidy,	36,728	11	8¼
Ditto of Hanau ditto,	16,326	10	1½
For the charge of 4,300 Brunſwickers,	93,947	15	8
For ditto of 1,285 Anſpachers, including artillery, &c.	39,588	2	4½
For proviſions for the foreign troops in America,	41,427	17	7¼
For making good the ſum voted laſt ſeſſion for the Heſſian troops,	6,617	5	3¼
Ditto, for ditto,	3,390	18	4½
Ditto for the Hanau foot,	1,013	16	10
Ditto for foreign troops, for the year 1776,	5,152	12	3½
For foreign artillery, &c.	26,053	7	4
For the Heſſian ditto,	13,972	16	0
For the Hanau ditto,	3,383	6	8
For the Waldeck ditto,	403	19	9½
For the charge of out-penſioners of Chelſea Hoſpital, &c.	105,279	13	9
On account of the reduced officers of his Majeſty's land forces, &c.	93,616	8	4
For allowances to ſeveral officers and private gentlemen of the two reduced troops of horſe-guards, &c.	754	12	1
For penſions to the widows of certain reduced officers,	370	0	0
Towards defraying the extraordinaries of the army, &c.	1,200,024	1	7¼
For the charge of the office of ordnance for the land ſervice, &c.	320,111	18	11
For ſervices performed by ditto for ditto, not provided for in 1776,	272,705	18	1
On account of new roads and bridges in the Highlands of North Britain,	6,997	13	7
For the civil eſtabliſhment of the iſland of St. John,	3,000	0	0
Ditto of Georgia,	2,816	0	0
Ditto of Nova Scotia,	4,596	10	5
Ditto of Eaſt Florida,	5,950	0	0
Ditto of Weſt Florida,	5,900	0	0
Ditto of Senegambia,	5,550	0	0
On account of general ſurveys in North America,	2,993	5	0
To the truſtees of the Britiſh Muſeum,	3,000	0	0
Carried forward,	8,616,919	6	8½

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	£.	s.	d.
Brought over,	8,616,919	6	8½
For diſcharging certain unſatisfied claims relative to the laſt German war,	41,820	14	5
For the relief of ſuch American civil officers as have ſuffered from their attachment to his Majeſty's government, — —	32,934	16	6
To Mr. Duncan Campbell, for the expence of convicts on the Thames,	1,879	10	6
To make good to his Majeſty the like ſum iſſued by his Majeſty's orders, in purſuance of the addreſſes of the Houſe of Commons,	13,060	2	0
For repairing, &c. Britiſh forts and ſettlements on the coaſt of Africa,	13,000	0	0
For printing journals, &c. — — —	600	0	0
To George White, Eſq. for expences incurred relative to enquiries made into the ſtate of the poor of this kingdom, —	500	0	0
Towards diſcharging certain Exchequer bills, —	1,500,600	0	0
Towards diſcharging certain other Exchequer bills, —	1,000,000	0	0
To diſcharge the arrears and debts owing upon the civil liſt on January 5, 1777, — — — —	618,340	9	6¼

It was alſo reſolved, "That for the better ſupport of his Majeſty's houſehold, and of the honour and dignity of the crown, there be granted to his Majeſty during his life, out of the aggregate fund, the clear yearly ſum of 100,000l. to commence from the 5th of June, 1777, over and above the ſum of 800,000l. granted by an act made in the 1ſt year of his preſent Majeſty's reign.]

	£.	s.	d.
For diſcharging the prizes of the lottery of 1776, —	500,000	0	0
To make good the deficiency of certain grants for the ſervice of 1776,	61,288	7	1¾
Ditto of the fund for paying certain annuities, —	44,599	13	4½
Ditto in the land-tax, — — —	250,000	0	0
Ditto in the malt-tax, — — —	200,000	0	0
Total Supplies,	12,895,543	0	2

The Ways and Means for raiſing the foregoing ſupplies.	£.	s.	d.
Duty on malt, — — —	750,000	0	0
Land tax at 4s. — — —	2,000,000	0	0
From the ſinking fund, — — —	1,939,636	5	9¾
By certain ſurpluſſes and revenues in ditto, — —	295,832	18	6¾
By ditto, — — — —	760,363	14	2¼
By annuities and lottery, — — —	5,500,000	0	0
By Exchequer bills, — — —	1,500,000	0	0
By ſurpluſſes of certain duties remaining in the Exchequer,	3,919	13	7
By ditto, — — — —	1,391	0	7
By duties on gum Senegal and gum Arabic, &c. —	1,391	0	0
By monies paid into the Exchequer by the executors of the late Lord Holland, — — — —	200,000	0	0
Total of Ways and Means, —	12,952,534	12	8¾
Supplies granted, —	12,895,543	0	2
Exceſs of proviſions, —	56,991	12	6¾

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1777 ☞ The vote of credit for one million, granted this ſeſſion, for the future army extra, and expence of, and loſs by coinage, is charged in the next aids.

	£.	s.	d.
It appears from the above accounts, that the additional public debt funded this year, amounts to five millions; the intereſt of which, at 4 per cent. per annum, is — — —	200,000	0	0
Together with the additional annuity of 10s. per cent. per annum, for ten years, which amounts to — — —	25,000	0	0
Total amount,	225,000	0	0

This ſum (by acts paſſed in purſuance of ſeveral reſolutions of May 15, 1777) was raiſed in the following manner:—

	£.	s.	d.
By a tax of one guinea each on all male ſervants not employed in agriculture, huſbandry, or trade, — —	100,000	0	0
By additional duties on glaſs, — — —	45,000	0	0
By additional ſtamp duties, — — —	55,000	0	0
By a duty on auctioneers, and on goods ſold by auction,	37,500	0	0
Total of new taxes,	237,500	0	0
From whence is to be deducted the annual produce of the plate duty, which was repealed, — — — —	12,000	0	0
Remained,	225,500	0	0

The number of chriſtenings and burials within the bills of mortality in London, &c. from December 10, 1776, to December 16, 1777, is as follows:

Chriſtened, males	9,338	Buried, males	11,768
——— females	8,962	—— females	11,566
	18,300		23,334

By the bill of mortality for Norwich, for this year, the numbers were,

Chriſtened, Males,	704	Buried, Males,	502
Females,	585	Females,	494
	1,289		996

At Whitehaven,—chriſtenings, 237; burials, 207; marriages, 92.

At Whitby,—chriſtenings, 278; burials, 219; marriages, 100.

At Mancheſter,—chriſtenings, 1,513; burials, 864; marriages, 577.

At Liverpool.—chriſtenings, 1,224; burials, 1760; marriages, 455.

1778 At the commencement of this year, the critical ſituation of affairs, both foreign and domeſtic, very powerfully engaged the public attention, and time was pregnant with events that demanded the whole of it. France was now on the eve of throwing off the maſk and taking a decided part in the American war. On the thirtieth of January, a treaty of commerce was ſigned

A. D. 1778 ſigned between that court and America, and on the ſixth of February, a treaty of alliance eventual and defenſive was concluded, at Paris, between his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, Louis the Sixteenth, and the thirteen United States of America: as theſe treaties eventually effected a revolution, which, in all its circumſtances, has not a parallel in the hiſtory of the world, we ſhall inſert them at large.

“ Article I. A firm, inviolable, and univerſal peace, and a true and ſincere friendſhip, ſhall ſubſiſt between the Moſt Chriſtian King, his heirs and ſucceſſors, and the United States of America, as well as between his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty's ſubjects and thoſe of the ſaid States; as alſo between the people, iſlands out and inhabitants of all claſſes, without any exception to perſons or places. The conditions mentioned in the preſent treaty, ſhall be perpetual and permanent between the Moſt Chriſtian King, his heirs and ſucceſſors, and the ſaid United States.

“ II. The Moſt Chriſtian King and the United States mutually engage, not to grant any particular favour to other nations, reſpecting commerce and navigation, which ſhall not be immediately made known to the other party; and ſuch nation ſhall enjoy that favour gratuitouſly, if the conceſſion is ſuch, or in granting the ſame compenſation, if the conceſſion is conditional.

“ III. The ſubjects of the Moſt Chriſtian King ſhall not pay, in the ports, harbours, roads, countries, iſlands, cities, and places of the United States, any greater duties or impoſts, of what nature ſoever they may be, or by whatever name they may be called, than ſuch as the moſt favoured nation ſhall pay; and they ſhall enjoy all the rights, liberties, privileges, immunities, and exemptions, in point of trade, navigation and commerce, whether in paſſing from one port of the ſaid States to another, or in going thither, or in returning from or going to any part of the world whatever, as the ſaid nations may or ſhall enjoy.

“ The ſubjects, people, and inhabitants of the ſaid United States, or each of them, ſhall not pay, in the ports, harbours, roads, iſlands, cities, and places, within the dominions of his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty in Europe, any greater duties or impoſts, of what nature ſoever they may be, or by whatever name they may be called, than the moſt favourite nation are or ſhall be bound to pay; and they ſhall enjoy all the rights, liberties, privileges, immunities, and exemptions, in point of trade, navigation and commerce, whether in paſſing from one port to another of the ſaid dominions of the Moſt Chriſtian King in Europe, or in going thither, or in returning from or going to any part of the world whatever, as the ſaid nations may or ſhall enjoy.

“ V. In the above exemption is particularly compriſed the impoſition of 100d. per ton, eſtabliſhed in France upon foreign ſhips: excepting when the ſhips of the United States ſhall load with French merchandizes in one port of France for another in the ſaid kingdom, in which caſe the ſaid ſhips of the ſaid United States ſhall diſcharge the uſual rights, ſo long as the moſt favourite nations ſhall be obliged to do the ſame; nevertheleſs, the ſaid United States, or any of them, ſhall be at liberty to eſtabliſh, whenever they ſhall think proper, a right equivalent to that in queſtion, in the ſame caſe as it is eſtabliſhed in the ports of his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty.

“ VI. The Moſt Chriſtian King ſhall uſe all the means in his power to protect and defend all the ſhips and effects belonging to the ſubjects, people, and inhabitants of the ſaid United States, and of each of them which ſhall be in his ports, harbours, or roads, or in the ſeas near his territories, countries, iſles, cities, and places; and ſhall uſe every effort to recover

and

1778 reſtore to the lawful proprietors, their agents or order, all the ſhips and effects which ſhall be taken within his juriſdiction; and his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty's ſhips of war, or other convoys, ſailing under his authority, ſhall take, on every occaſion, under their protection the ſhips belonging to the ſubjects, people, and inhabitants of the ſaid United States, or any of them, which ſhall keep the ſame courſe and make the ſame route, and defend the ſaid ſhips, ſo long as they ſhall keep the ſame courſe and make the ſame route, againſt every attack, force, or violence, in the ſame manner as they are bound to defend and protect the ſhips belonging to the ſubjects of his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty.

" VII. In like manner the ſaid United States, and their ſhips of war ſailing under their authority, ſhall protect and defend, agreeable to the contents of the preceding article, all the ſhips and effects belonging to the Moſt Chriſtian King, and ſhall uſe all their efforts to recover and reſtore the ſaid ſhips and effects, which ſhall be taken within the extent of the juriſdiction of the ſaid United States, or either of them.

" VIII. The Moſt Chriſtian King will employ his endeavours and mediation with the King or Emperor of Morocco or Fez, with the regencies of Algiers, Tunis, and Tripoli, or any of them, as well as with every other Prince, State, or Power of the Barbary coaſt in Africa, and with the ſubjects of the ſaid King, Emperor, States, and Powers, and each of them, to ſecure, as fully and effectually as poſſible, to the advantage, convenience, and ſecurity of the ſaid United States, and each of them, as alſo their ſubjects, people, and inhabitants, their ſhips and effects, againſt violence, inſult, attack, or depredation, on the part of the ſaid Barbary Princes and States, or their ſubjects.

" IX. The ſubjects, inhabitants, merchants, commanders of ſhips, maſters, and ſeamen, of the ſtates, provinces, and dominions of the two parties, ſhall reciprocally refrain from, and avoid fiſhing in any of the places poſſeſſed, or which ſhall be poſſeſſed, by the other party. The ſubjects of his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, ſhall not fiſh in the harbours, bays, creeks, roads, and places, which the ſaid United States poſſeſs, or ſhall hereafter poſſeſs; and in the ſame manner the ſubjects, people, and inhabitants of the ſaid United States, ſhall not fiſh in the harbours, bays, creeks, roads, coaſts, and places, which his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty actually poſſeſſes, or ſhall hereafter poſſeſs; and if any ſhip or veſſel ſhall be ſurpriſed fiſhing, in violation of the preſent treaty, the ſame ſhip or veſſel and its cargo ſhall, upon clear proof, be confiſcated. Provided the excluſion ſtipulated in the preſent article ſhall ſtand good only ſo long as the King and the United States ſhall not ſuffer it to be enjoyed by any other nation whatever.

" X. The United States, their citizens and inhabitants, ſhall never diſturb the ſubjects of the Moſt Chriſtian King in the enjoyment and exerciſe of the right of fiſhing on the banks of Newfoundland, any more than in the unlimited and excluſive enjoyment they poſſeſs on that part of the coaſts of that iſland, as ſpecified in the treaty of Utrecht, nor in the rights relative to all and each of the iſles which belong to his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty; the whole conformable to the true ſenſe of the treaties of Utrecht and Paris.

" XI. The ſubjects and inhabitants of the ſaid United States, or any of them, ſhall not be conſidered as foreigners in France, and, conſequently, ſhall be exempt from the right of eſcheatage, or any other ſuch like right, under any name whatever; they may, by will, donation, or otherwiſe, diſpoſe of their goods, moveables, and fixtures, in favour of whom they ſhall pleaſe; and their heirs, ſubjects of the ſaid United States, reſident in France or elſewhere, ſhall ſucceed to them, *ab inteſtat*, without being obliged to obtain letters of naturalization, and

A. D. 1778 without being expoſed to any moleſtation or hindrance, under pretence of any rights or prerogatives of provinces, cities, or private perſons; and the ſaid heirs, either by particular title, or *ab inteſtat*, ſhall be exempt from all right of detraction or other right of that kind, provided that ſuch or the like local rights are not eſtabliſhed by the ſaid United States, or any of them. The ſubjects of the Moſt Chriſtian King ſhall enjoy, on their ſide, in all the dominions of the ſaid States, an entire and perfect reciprocation with reſpect to the ſtipulations included in the preſent article.

" But it is at the ſame time agreed, that the contents of this article ſhall not affect the laws made in France againſt emigrations, or ſuch as may be made hereafter, ſuch being left in their full force and vigour; the United States, on their ſide, or any of them, ſhall be free to make ſuch laws reſpecting that matter as they ſhall judge proper.

" XII. The merchant ſhips of both parties, which ſhall be bound to any port, belonging to a power then an enemy of the other ally, and of which the voyage, or nature of its cargo ſhall give juſt ſuſpicions, ſhall be bound to produce, either on the high ſeas, or in ports and harbours, not only their paſſports, but alſo certificates, which ſhall expreſsly ſtate, that their cargoes are not of prohibited and contraband wares.

" XIII. If the contents of the ſaid certificates lead to a diſcovery, that the ſhip carries prohibited and contraband merchandizes, conſigned to an enemy's port, it ſhall not be permitted to open the hatches of the ſaid ſhip, nor any caſe, cheſt, trunk, bale, caſk or other caſes, contained therein, or to diſplace or remove the leaſt part of the merchandize, whether the ſhip belongs to the Moſt Chriſtian King, or to the inhabitants of the United States, until the cargo has been landed in the preſence of the officers of the Admiralty, and an inventory taken of them; but they ſhall not be permitted to ſell, exchange, or diſpoſe of the ſhips or cargoes, in any manner whatever, until a fair and legal enquiry has been made, the contraband declared, and the court of Admiralty ſhall have pronounced the confiſcation by judgment, nevertheleſs without prejudice of ſhips or cargoes, which, by virtue of this treaty, ſhall be conſidered as free. It ſhall not be permitted to retain merchandizes, under pretence that they were found among contraband goods, and ſtill leſs to confiſcate them as legal prizes. In caſe where a part only, and not the whole of the cargo, conſiſts of contraband articles, and that the commander of the ſhip conſents to deliver up to the captor what ſhall be diſcovered, then the captain, who ſhall have made the prize, after having received thoſe articles, ſhall immediately releaſe the ſhip, and in no manner prevent it from purſuing its voyage; but in caſe that the whole of the contraband articles cannot be all taken into the veſſel of the captor, then the captain of ſuch veſſel ſhall remain maſter of his prize, notwithſtanding the offer to give up the contraband goods, and conduct the ſhip into the neareſt port, conformably to what is above ſpecified.

" XIV. It is agreed, on the contrary, that every thing that ſhall be found embarked by the reſpective ſubjects, in ſhips belonging to the enemies of the other party, or their ſubjects, ſhall be confiſcated, without regard to their being prohibited or not, in the ſame manner as if they belonged to the enemy; excepting, however, ſuch effects and merchandizes as had been put on board the ſaid ſhips before the declaration of war, or even after the ſaid declaration, if they were ignorant of it at the time of loading; ſo that the merchandizes of the ſubjects of both parties, whether they be found among contraband goods or otherwiſe, which, as hath been juſt mentioned, ſhall have been put on board a ſhip belonging to the enemy, before the war, or even after the ſaid declaration, when unknown to them, ſhall not be, in any manner, ſubject to confiſcation, but ſhall be faithfully and truly reſtored, without delay, to the owners

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1778 who ſhall claim them: it muſt, however, be underſtood, that it will not be permitted to carry contraband goods into an enemy's ports. The two contracting parties agree, that after the expiration of two months from the declaration of war, their reſpective ſubjects, from what part of the world ſoever they ſhall come, ſhall not be permitted to plead ignorance of the queſtion in this article.

“ And in order the more effectually to ſecure the ſubjects of the two contracting parties from receiving any prejudice from the ſhips of war or privateers of either party, orders ſhall be given to all captains of ſhips of his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty and the ſaid United States, and to all their ſubjects, to avoid offering inſult or doing damage to the ſhips of either party; and whoever ſhall act contrary to theſe orders, ſhall be puniſhed for it, and ſhall be bound and obliged perſonally, in their own effects, to repair all ſuch damages and loſſes.

“ XVI. All ſhips and merchandizes of what nature ſoever, which ſhall be taken out of the hands of pirates on the high ſeas, ſhall be conducted into ſome port of the two ſtates, and ſhall be committed to the care of the officers of the ſaid port, in order that they may be entirely reſtored to the right owner, as ſoon as ſuch property ſhall be fully and clearly proved.

“ XVII. The ſhips of war of his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, and thoſe of the United States, as well as privateers fitted out by their ſubjects, ſhall be at full liberty to conduct where they pleaſe ſuch prizes as they ſhall take from the enemy, without being amenable to the juriſdiction of their admirals or admiralty, or any other power; and the ſaid veſſels or prizes, entering into the harbours or ports of his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, or thoſe of the ſaid United States, ſhall be neither ſtopped nor ſeized, nor ſhall the officers of ſuch places enquire into the validity of the ſaid prizes, but ſhall be permitted to depart freely and at full liberty, to ſuch places as directed in the commiſſions, which the captains of the ſaid ſhips ſhall be obliged to produce. And, on the contrary, they ſhall neither give ſecurity nor retreat, in their ports or harbours, to any prizes made on the ſubjects of his Majeſty, or the ſaid United States; and, if ſuch ſhall be found to enter their ports, through ſtorms or dangers of the ſea, they ſhall be obliged to depart as ſoon as poſſible.

“ XVIII. Should a ſhip belonging to either of the two States, or their ſubjects, run aground, be wrecked, or ſuffer other damages, upon the coaſts belonging to one of the two parties, they ſhall give all friendly aid and aſſiſtance to ſuch as are in danger, and take every method to ſecure their ſafe paſſage, and return to their own country.

“ XIX. When the ſubjects and inhabitants of one of the two parties with their ſhips, whether men of war, privateers, or merchantmen, ſhall be forced by foul weather, by the purſuits of pirates or enemies, or by any other urgent neceſſity, to ſeek ſhelter and refuge, to run into and enter ſome river, bay, road, or port belonging to one of the two parties, they ſhall be received and treated with humanity and kindneſs, and ſhall enjoy all the friendſhip, protection and aſſiſtance, and ſhall be permitted to procure refreſhments, proviſions and every thing neceſſary for their ſubſiſtence, for the repairing of their ſhips, and to enable them to purſue their voyage, paying a reaſonable price for every thing; and they ſhall not be detained in any manner, nor prevented quitting the ſaid ports or roads, but ſhall be permitted to depart at pleaſure, without any obſtacle or impediment.

“ XX. In order the better to promote the commerce of the two parties, it is agreed, that in caſe a war ſhould commence between the two ſaid nations, ſix months ſhall be allowed, after the declaration of war, to the merchants living in their towns and cities, to collect and tranſport their merchandize; and, if any part of them ſhall be ſtolen or damaged, during the

A. D. 1778 time above preſcribed by either of the two parties, their people or ſubjects ſhall be obliged to make full and perfect ſatisfaction for the ſame.

" XXI. No ſubject of the Moſt Chriſtian King ſhall take a commiſſion, or letters of marque, to arm any ſhip or veſſel, to act as a privateer againſt the ſaid United States, or any of them, or againſt their ſubjects, people or inhabitants, or againſt their property, or that of the inhabitants of any of them, from any Prince whatever, with whom the ſaid United States ſhall be at war. In like manner, no citizen, ſubject or inhabitant of the ſaid United States, or any of them, ſhall demand or accept any commiſſion or letters of marque, to arm any ſhips or veſſels, to act againſt the ſubjects of his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, or any of them, or their property, from any Prince or State whatever, with whom his ſaid Majeſty may be at war; and if any of the two nations ſhall take ſuch commiſſions or letters of marque, they ſhall be puniſhed as pirates.

" XXII. No foreign privateer, not belonging to ſome ſubject of his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, or to a citizen of the ſaid United States, which ſhall have a commiſſion from any Prince or power at war with one of the two nations, ſhall be permitted to arm their ſhips in the ports of one of the two parties, nor to ſell their prizes, nor to clear their ſhips, in any manner whatever, of their merchandizes, or any part of their cargo; they ſhall not even be permitted to purchaſe any other proviſions, than ſuch as are neceſſary to carry them to the neareſt port of the Prince or State of whom they hold their commiſſion.

" XXIII. All and each of the ſubjects of the Moſt Chriſtian King, as well as the citizens, people and inhabitants of the ſaid United States, ſhall be permitted to work their veſſels in full liberty and ſecurity, without any exception being made thereto, on account of the proprietors of merchandizes on board the ſaid veſſels, coming from any port whatever, and deſtined for ſome place belonging to a power actually an enemy, or which may become ſuch, of his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty or the United States. It ſhall be equally permitted to the ſubjects and inhabitants above-mentioned, to navigate their ſhips and merchandizes, and to frequent, with the ſame liberty and ſecurity, the places, ports and havens of the powers, enemies to the two contracting parties, or one of them, without oppoſition or moleſtation, and to trade with them, not only directly from ports of the enemy to any neutral port, but alſo from one port of the enemy to another of the ſame, whether under the juriſdiction of one or more; and it is ſtipulated by the preſent treaty, that all free veſſels ſhall equally enjoy the liberty of trade, and that every thing ſhall be judged free which is found on board the ſhips belonging to the ſubjects of one of the contracting parties, even though the cargo, or part of it, ſhould belong to the enemies of one of them; excepting always, however, all contraband goods. It is equally agreed, that the ſame liberty ſhall extend to perſons on board ſuch free ſhips, even though they ſhall be enemies to one of the two contracting parties, and ſhall not be taken from the ſaid ſhips, unleſs in arms, and actually in the enemy's ſervice.

" XXIV. This free navigation and commerce is extended to all ſorts of merchandizes, excepting only ſuch as ſhall be deemed contraband or prohibited, and under ſuch denomination are comprehended arms, cannon, bombs, with their fuſees and other appurtenances, bullets, powder, matches, pikes, ſwords, lances, darts, halberts, mortars, petards, granades, ſaltpetre, fuſils, balls, bucklers, caſques, cuiraſſes, coats of mail, and other arms of that kind, proper for the defence of ſoldiers; gun-locks, ſhoulder-belts, horſes and their trappings, and all other inſtruments of war whatever. The following merchandizes are not to be conſidered as contraband or prohibited, viz. all ſorts of cloths, and other woollen ſtuffs, linen, ſilk, cotton, or

A. D. 1778 or other ſuch matters; all ſorts of cloaths, with the materials of which they are uſually made; gold or ſilver, either in ſpecie or otherwiſe, pewter, iron, latten, copper, braſs, coals, and even wheat and barley, and all other ſorts of grain and roots; tobacco and all ſorts of ſpices, ſalted and dried proviſions, dried fiſh, cheeſe and butter, beer, oil, wine, ſugar, and all kinds of ſalt, and in general, all kinds of proviſions neceſſary for the nouriſhment of man, and for the ſupport of life; alſo all ſorts of cotton, hemp, linen, pitch, tar, cords, tables, ſails, canvas for ſails, anchors, parts of anchors, maſts, planks, timber and wood of all kinds, and all other things proper for the building and repairing of ſhips, and other matters whatſoever, which are not in the form of warlike inſtruments for ſea or land, ſhall not be reputed contraband, much leſs ſuch as are already prepared for other uſes. All the articles above-mentioned are to be compriſed among the free articles of merchandize, as well as all the other merchandizes and effects which are not compriſed and particularly named in the liſt of contraband merchandizes; ſo that they may be tranſported and conducted in the freeſt manner, by the ſubjects of the two contracting parties, into any of the enemy's ports; excepting, however, that ſuch places are not actually beſieged, blocked up, or inveſted.

" XXV. In order to remove and prevent diſſentions and quarrels on either ſide, it is agreed, that in caſe one of the two parties ſhall find themſelves engaged in a war, the ſhips and veſſels belonging to the ſubjects or people of the other ally, ſhall be provided with marine paſſports, which ſhall expreſs the name, property and burden of the ſhip, as well as the name and place of abode of the maſter and commander of the ſaid ſhip, in order that it may from thence appear, that the ſame ſhip really and truly belongs to the ſubjects of one of the two contracting parties. Theſe paſſports are to be annually renewed, in caſe the ſhip returns home in the ſpace of one year. It is alſo agreed, that the above-mentioned ſhips, in caſe they ſhall be laden, are to be provided not only with paſſports, but alſo with certificates, containing the particulars of the cargo, the place from whence the ſhip came, and a declaration of what contraband goods are on board; which certificate is to be made in the accuſtomed form, by the officers of the place from whence the ſhip ſailed; and if it be judged neceſſary or prudent to expreſs in the ſaid paſſports the perſons to whom the merchandize belongs, it muſt be freely complied with.

" XXVI. In caſe any ſhips of the ſubjects and inhabitants of one of the two contracting parties ſhould approach the coaſt of the other, without any intention to enter the port, or, after having entered it, without any intention to unload their cargo, or break bulk, they ſhall conduct themſelves, in that reſpect, according to the general rules preſcribed, or to be preſcribed, relative to that matter.

" XXVII. When any veſſel belonging to the ſaid ſubjects, people, and inhabitants of one of the two parties, ſhall meet, while ſailing along the coaſt or on the open ſea, a ſhip of war or privateer belonging to the other, the ſaid ſhip of war or privateer in order to avoid diſorder, ſhall bring ſuch veſſel to, and ſend her boat with two or three on board her, to whom the maſter or commander of the merchantman ſhall produce his paſſport, and prove the property of the veſſel; and as ſoon as ſuch paſſport ſhall be produced, the maſter ſhall be at liberty to purſue his voyage, without being moleſted, or in any other manner driven or forced to alter his intended courſe.

" XXVIII. It is agreed, that when the merchandizes ſhall be put on board ſhips or veſſels of one of the two contracting parties, they ſhall not be ſubject to be examined again, all ſuch examination and ſearch being to be made before loading, and the prohibited goods being to be

A. D. 1778 ſtopped and ſeized on ſhore, before they could be embarked, unleſs there are ſtrong ſuſpicions or proofs of fraudulent practices: ſo that no ſubject of his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, or of the United States, can be ſtopped or moleſted for that cauſe by any kind of embargo; but ſuch ſubjects of the State who ſhall preſume to yend or ſell ſuch merchandizes as are prohibited, ſhall be duly puniſhed for ſuch infraction of the treaty.

" XXIX. The two contracting parties mutually grant each other the right of maintaining, in their reſpective ports, conſuls, vice-conſuls, agents and commiſſaries, whoſe buſineſs ſhall be regulated by a particular convention.

" XXX. In order further to forward and facilitate the commerce between the ſubjects of the United States and France, the Moſt Chriſtian King will allow them in Europe one or more free ports, to which they may bring and ſell all the commodities and merchandizes of the Thirteen United States. His Majeſty will alſo grant to the ſubjects of the ſaid States, the free ports which have been, and are open, in the French iſlands of America, all which free ports the ſaid ſubjects of the United States ſhall enjoy, conformably to the regulations which determine that matter.

" XXXI. The preſent treaty ſhall be ratified by both parties, and the ratifications exchanged within the ſpace of ſix months, or ſooner if may be. In witneſs of which the reſpective plenipotentiaries have ſigned the above articles, both in the French and Engliſh language; nevertheleſs declaring, that the preſent treaty was originally digeſted and ſettled in the French language, to which they have affixed their hands and ſeals.

" Given at Paris the ſixth day of the month of February, 1778.

" C. A. GERARD.
" B. FRANKLIN.
" SILAS DEANE.
" ARTHUR LEE."

The following is a treaty of alliance between his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty Louis XVI. and the Thirteen United States of America, concluded at Paris, February 6, 1778.

" Article I. If war ſhould break out between France and Great Britain during the continuance of the preſent war between the United States and England, his Majeſty and the ſaid United States ſhall make it a common cauſe, and aid each other mutually with their good offices, their councils and their forces, according to the exigency of conjunctures, as becomes good and faithful allies.

" II. The eſſential and direct end of the preſent defenſive alliance is, to maintain effectually the liberty, ſovereignty and independence, abſolute and unlimited, of the ſaid United States, as well in matters of government as of commerce.

" III. The two contracting parties ſhall each on its own part, and in the manner it may judge moſt proper, make all the efforts in its power againſt their common enemy, in order to attain the end propoſed.

" The contracting parties agree, that in caſe either of them ſhould form any particular enterprize in which the concurrence of the other party may be deſired, the party whoſe concurrence is deſired, ſhall readily and with good faith join to act in concert for that purpoſe, as far as circumſtances and its own particular ſituation will permit, and in that caſe, they ſhall regulate by a particular convention the quality and kind of ſuccour to be furniſhed, and the time and manner of its being brought into action, as well as the advantages which are to be its compenſation.

" V. If

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" V. If the United States ſhould think fit to attempt the reduction of the Britiſh power, remaining in the northern parts of America, or the iſlands of Bermudas, thoſe countries or iſlands, in caſe of ſucceſs, ſhall be confederated with, or dependent upon, the ſaid United States.

" VI. The Moſt Chriſtian King renounces for ever the poſſeſſion of the iſlands of Bermudas, as well as of any part of the continent of North America, which before the treaty of Paris, in 1763, or in virtue of that treaty, were acknowledged to belong to the crown of Great Britain, or to the United States, heretofore called Britiſh colonies, or which are at this time, or have lately been under the power of the King and crown of Great Britain.

" VII. If his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty ſhall think proper to attack any of the iſlands ſituated in the Gulph of Mexico, or near that Gulph, which are at preſent under the power of Great Britain, all the ſaid iſles, in caſe of ſucceſs, ſhall appertain to the crown of France.

" VIII. Neither of the two parties ſhall conclude either truce or peace with Great Britain, without the formal conſent of the other firſt obtained; and they mutually engage not to lay down their arms, until the independence of the United States ſhall have been formally or tacitly aſſured by the treaty or treaties that ſhall terminate the war.

" IX. The contracting parties declare, that, being reſolved to fulfil, each on its own part, the clauſes and conditions of the preſent treaty of alliance, according to its own power and circumſtances, there ſhall be no after-claims of compenſation, on one ſide or the other, whatever may be the event of the war.

" X. The Moſt Chriſtian King and the United States agree, to invite or admit other powers, who may have received injuries from England, to make a common cauſe with them, and to accede to the preſent alliance, under ſuch conditions as ſhall be freely agreed to, and ſettled between all the parties.

" XI. The two parties guarantee mutually from the preſent time, and for ever, againſt all other powers, to wit, The United States to his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty the preſent poſſeſſions of the crown of France in America, as well as thoſe which it may acquire by the future treaty of peace; and his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty guarantees on his part to the United States, their liberty, ſovereignty and independence, abſolute and unlimited, as well in matters of government as commerce, and alſo their poſſeſſions, and the additions or conqueſts that their confederation may obtain during the war, from any of the dominions now or heretofore poſſeſſed by Great Britain in North America, conformable to the fifth and ſixth articles above written, the whole of their poſſeſſions ſhall be fixed and aſſured to the ſaid States, at the moment of the ceſſation of their preſent war with England.

" XII. In order to fix more preciſely the ſenſe and application of the preceding article, the contracting parties declare, that in caſe of a rupture between France and England, the reciprocal guarantee declared in the ſaid article ſhall have its full force and effect the moment ſuch war ſhall break out; and if ſuch rupture ſhall not take place, the mutual obligations of the ſaid guarantee ſhall not commence until the moment of the ceſſation of the preſent war between the United States and England, ſhall have aſcertained their poſſeſſions.

" XIII. The preſent treaty ſhall be ratified on both ſides, and the ratifications ſhall be exchanged in the ſpace of ſix months, or ſooner if poſſible.

" Done at Paris the ſixth day of February, 1778.

" C. A. GERARD, (L. S.)
" B. FRANKLIN, (L. S.)
" SILAS DEANE, (L. S.)
" ARTHUR LEE, (L. S.)

A. D. 1778 On the ſeventeenth of February, the miniſter introduced a conciliatory ſcheme to Parliament, which was compoſed of two bills under the following heads:—A bill for declaring the intentions of the Parliament of Great Britain, concerning the exerciſe of the right of impoſing taxes within his Majeſty's colonies, provinces and plantations in North America; and a bill to enable his Majeſty to appoint commiſſioners, with ſufficient powers to treat, conſult and agree upon the means of quieting the diſorders ſubſiſting in certain of the colonies, plantations and provinces of North America.

By theſe bills it was intended to appoint five commiſſioners, to be endowed with very ample powers, who ſhould be enabled to treat with the Congreſs by name, as if it were a legal body, and ſo far to give it authenticity, as to ſuppoſe its acts and conceſſions binding on all America. They were alſo to be authoriſed to treat with any of the provincial aſſemblies upon the conſtitution they had adopted, and with any individuals in their civil and military capacities, to order a ſuſpenſion of arms, to ſuſpend the operation of the laws, to grant all ſorts of pardons, immunities and rewards, and to reſtore all the colonies, or any of them, to the form of its ancient conſtitution, as it ſtood before the troubles; as well as (in any of thoſe where the King nominated the governors, council, judges and other magiſtrates,) to nominate ſuch, at their diſcretion, until his further pleaſure ſhould be known.

Should the Americans claim the title of Independent States, in negociating with the commiſſioners, the renunciation of it was not to be inſiſted upon, until the treaty had received its final ratification by the King and Parliament of Great Britain. The commiſſioners were alſo to receive inſtructions to negociate for ſome reaſonable and moderate contribution towards the common defence of the empire, when brought to a ſtate of re-union; but, that no pretence might remain for not bringing theſe unhappy differences to a termination, the contribution was not to be inſiſted upon as an unrelaxing part of the treaty; while the Americans, ſhould they refuſe a propoſition, of a nature at once ſo juſt and reaſonable, would yield every claim of future ſupport from that part of the empire, to whoſe expence they had refuſed to contribute.

The miniſter concluded his ſpeech on the occaſion with declaring, that the conceſſions he propoſed did not proceed from neceſſity, but from reaſon; that Great Britain was by no means diſabled from continuing the war; that more troops might be raiſed if more ſhould be wanted; that the navy was in great power; that the revenue to ſupport them was ſtill flouriſhing, and that the funds for the ſervice of the current year, would be very ſhortly provided at a moderate intereſt.

Theſe bills met with no material oppoſition; and, after undergoing ſeveral alterations, paſſed the Houſe without a diviſion. By theſe alterations, the powers of the commiſſioners were, however, greatly narrowed from the idea of them firſt held out by the miniſter: a clauſe was introduced to repeal the American tea act, paſſed in the year 1767; the proviſions of the bill extended to the Weſt Indies; and ſome change of expreſſion was made in the title of the bill, which in the firſt form might have been a preliminary objection to the Americans to enter upon the treaty it was intended to produce.

At length we come to that deciſive moment, when France determined to throw off the appearance of friendſhip, which ſtill ſubſiſted between that country and Great Britain: ſhe now made an open declaration of her intentions relating to America; and, on the thirteenth of March, the French ambaſſador preſented the declaration of his ſovereign to the court of London, acknowledging the independence of the North American colonies. This declaration

A. D. 1778 tion was preſented by the miniſters, with the following meſſage, to both Houſes of Parliament.

" His Majeſty having been informed, by order of the French King, that a treaty of amity and commerce has been ſigned between the court of France, and certain perſons employed by his Majeſty's revolted ſubjects in North America, has judged it neceſſary to direct, that a copy of the declaration, delivered by the French ambaſſador to Lord Viſcount Weymouth, be laid before the Houſe of Commons; and, at the ſame time, to acquaint them, that his Majeſty has thought proper, in conſequence of this offenſive communication on the part of the court of France, to ſend orders to his ambaſſador to withdraw from that court.

" His Majeſty is perſuaded, that the juſtice and good faith of his conduct towards foreign powers, and the ſincerity of his wiſhes to preſerve the tranquillity of Europe, will be acknowledged by all the world; and his Majeſty truſts, that he ſhall not ſtand reſponſible for the diſturbance of that tranquillity, if he ſhould find himſelf called upon to reſent ſo unprovoked and ſo unjuſt an aggreſſion on the honour of his crown, and the eſſential intereſts of his kingdoms, contrary to the moſt ſolemn aſſurances, ſubverſive of the law of nations, and injurious to the rights of every ſovereign power in Europe.

" His Majeſty, relying, with the firmeſt confidence, on the zealous and affectionate ſupport of his faithful people, is determined to be prepared to exert, if it ſhall become neceſſary, all the force and reſources of his kingdoms; which, he truſts, will be found adequate to repel every inſult and attack, and to maintain and uphold the power and reputation of this country.

" G. R."

The declaration, mentioned in the meſſage, was as follows:

" The under-ſigned ambaſſador of his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, has received expreſs orders to make the following declaration to the court of London.

" The United States of North America, who are in full poſſeſſion of independence, as pronounced by them on the 4th of July, 1776, having propoſed to the King to conſolidate, by a formal convention, the connection begun to be eſtabliſhed between the two nations, the reſpective plenipotentiaries have ſigned a treaty of friendſhip and commerce, deſigned to ſerve as a foundation for their mutual good correſpondence.

" His Majeſty being determined to cultivate the good underſtanding ſubſiſting between France and Great Britain, by every means compatible with his dignity and the good of his ſubjects, thinks it neceſſary to make his proceeding known to the court of London, and to declare at the ſame time, that the contracting parties have paid great attention not to ſtipulate any excluſive advantages in favour of the French nation; and that the United States have reſerved the liberty of treating with every nation whatever, upon the ſame footing of equality and reciprocity.

" In making this communication to the court of London, the King is firmly perſuaded it will find new proofs of his Majeſty's conſtant and ſincere diſpoſition for peace; and that his Britannic Majeſty, animated by the ſame ſentiments, will equally avoid every thing that may alter their good harmony; and he will particularly take effectual meaſures to prevent the commerce between his Majeſty's ſubjects and the United States of North America from being interrupted, and to cauſe all the uſages, received between commercial nations, to be, in this reſpect, obſerved, and all theſe rules which can be ſaid to ſubſiſt between the two crowns of France and Great Britain.

" In

A. D. 1778. "In this juſt confidence, the under-ſigned ambaſſador thinks it ſuperfluous to acquaint the Britiſh miniſter, that the King his maſter being determined to protect effectually the lawful commerce of his ſubjects, and to maintain the dignity of his flag, his Majeſty has, in conſequence, taken eventual meaſures in concert with the United States of North America.

"(Signed,)

" Dated London, March 13, 1778. Le M. De Noailles."

In the committees of both Houſes of Parliament, which were at this time employed in examining the ſtate of the nation, it was aſſerted by the ſupporters of that meaſure, that a very large balance was due from the merchants in North America to the merchants in London, which could not be then paid by the uſual remittances in goods, &c. in conſequence of the war; that ſince the paſſing of the ſeveral acts for prohibiting the fiſheries of the North American colonies, from all trade and commerce with this kingdom, and for making prizes of their ſhips, &c. the number of veſſels belonging to Great Britain and Ireland, taken by ſhips of war and privateers belonging to the ſaid colonies, amounted to 733; of which, it appeared, that 47 had been releaſed, and 127 retaken; but that the loſs on the latter for ſalvage, intereſt, on the value of the cargo, and loſs of a market, muſt have been very conſiderable: that the loſs of the remaining 559 veſſels, which were carried into port, appeared, from the beſt mercantile information, to amount, at leaſt, to 2,600,000l.: that of 200 ſhips annually employed in the African trade, before the commencement of the war, whoſe value, upon an average, was about 9,000l. each, there were not then 40 ſhips employed in that trade, whereby there appeared to be a diminution in that branch of commerce of 160 ſhips, which, at 9,000l. each, amount to a loſs of 1,440,000l. per annum: that the price of inſurance to the Weſt Indies and North America, was increaſed from two and two and an half, to five per cent. with convoy; but, without convoy and unarmed, the ſame inſurance had been ſo high as fifteen per cent.; and that, generally, in ſuch circumſtances ſhips could not be inſured at all: that the price of ſeamens wages was raiſed from 1l. 10s. to 3l. 5s. per month: that the price of pot-aſh was increaſed from 8s. to 3l. 10s. per hundred weight: that the price of ſpermaceti oil was raiſed from 35l. to 70l. per ton: that the price of tar was augmented from 7s. and 8s. to 30s. per barrel: that the price of ſugars, and all commodities from the Weſt Indies, and divers ſorts of naval ſtores from North America, was greatly enhanced; and that the number of American privateers, of which authentic accounts had been received, amounted to 173; that they carried 2,556 guns, and 13,840 ſeamen, &c.

On the ſide of adminiſtration it was contended, that the American commerce had ſuffered more than that of Great Britain, and that, upon a fair examination, a conſiderable balance would be found in our favour. In ſupport of this poſition it was ſaid, that the evidence of the merchants on the occaſion was extremely partial; that their eſtimates in point of value were rated too high, and their liſts of ſhips, taken by the enemy, erroneous: that if ſome branches of commerce had failed, others of greater value were eſtabliſhed: that the benefits to be derived from the Southern fiſhery, and the American ſhare of the Newfoundland fiſhery, (which was calculated in a duplicate ſtate as a prize to us and a loſs to them,) ſhould be very highly rated: that the number of American prizes which had been taken was 904, which, at the moderate valuation of 2,000l. each ſhip and cargo, upon an average, would amount to 1,808,000l.; to which, if the value of the fiſheries were added, it would appear, that, in the article of mercantile profit and loſs, Great Britain was a conſiderable gainer from the conteſt between her and America.

A. D. 1778 The diſtreſſes of Ireland had long been an object of regret, even with many of thoſe who had no particular intereſt in that country. Without entering into the cauſes from which they originated, it will be ſufficient to obſerve, that they had grown to their preſent alarming and deplorable ſtate, under the unhappy conſequences of the American war; ſo that the country became unequal to the ſupport of that great eſtabliſhment with which it had encumbered itſelf, when the flouriſhing ſtate of all other parts of the Britiſh empire, had diffuſed a large portion of proſperity to the Iriſh people.

The ſtate of affairs became now ſo notorious, and the conſequences were ſaid to be ſo urgent, that the miniſters were at length convinced of the neceſſity of paying attention to them, and of affording ſome immediate redreſs to the grievances under which Ireland, at this time, laboured. Earl Nugent accordingly moved, on the 2d of April, that a committee of the whole Houſe ſhould be appointed to conſider of the trade of Ireland. The noble Lord obſerved, with great truth, that the conduct of Great Britain towards its ſiſter kingdom, had been no leſs impolitic than unjuſt, and that the ſituation of public affairs, called particularly on this country to enter upon a reviſion of the Iriſh trade laws.

This motion in favour of Ireland was ſupported with great cordiality by every part of the Houſe, excepting the repreſentatives of certain manufacturing towns, who thought it neceſſary to conſult their conſtituents, with whoſe intereſts, any change in the Iriſh trade regulations might interfere, and by which they muſt be governed in their conduct on the occaſion.

It was ſaid, that Ireland was now become the chief dependency of the Britiſh crown, and that it particularly behoved this country, under its preſent circumſtances, to admit the Iriſh nation to the privileges of Britiſh citizens; a meaſure which true political wiſdom would long ſince have adopted. That the reſtrictions on the Iriſh trade, had defeated the purpoſe for which it was intended; and, inſtead of promoting the ſtaple manufactory of this country, in its woollen fabrics, had produced a direct contrary effect; as the Iriſh, in order to pay their rents, were under a neceſſity of diſpoſing of the produce of their lands; and, as they were not allowed to manufacture their wool, to find a market for it wherever they could, that all partial laws and unnatural reſtraints muſt ever fail in their deſign, when oppoſed to the operation of ſuch a neceſſity; that France, feeling an irremediable want of the raw material within herſelf, afforded a ready market, and an exorbitant price for the Iriſh wool: that the cheapneſs of living and other circumſtances were, however, more than a counterbalance for the exceſſive price ſhe paid for the raw material, and that ſhe was thereby enabled to arrive at ſuch a ſtate with reſpect to her woollen manufacture, as, in ſome degree, to rival us in that very commerce, of which we were, with ſo much reaſon, ſo very jealous.

Lord Nugent's motions were placed under four heads, and directed to the following purpoſes:

Firſt, That the Iriſh might be permitted to export directly to the Britiſh plantations, or to the ſettlements on the coaſt of Africa, in Britiſh ſhips, navigated according to law, all goods, wares and merchandizes, being the growth, produce, or manufacture of Great Britain, legally imported from that kingdom; alſo foreign certificate goods, under the ſame condition.

Secondly, That they might be permitted a direct importation into Ireland of all goods, wares and merchandizes, being the produce of any of the Britiſh plantations, or of the ſettlements on the coaſt of Africa, tobacco only excepted.

Thirdly, That they might alſo be permitted the direct exportation from Ireland, to all places except Great Britain, of glaſs manufactured in that kingdom.

Fourthly,

A. D. 1778 Fourthly, by taking off a duty amounting to a prohibition, the importation of cotton yarn, the manufacture of Ireland, was permitted in Great Britain.

But although theſe motions were unanimouſly agreed to for the preſent, and the greateſt good wiſhes were expreſſed for the ſiſter kingdom; nay, although the miniſter had acknowledged that the Iriſh complained, with great juſtice, of the reſtrictions of our trade laws, and that a relaxation of them would benefit the Iriſh, and ultimately enrich ourſelves,—a very ſtrong oppoſition grew up againſt the meaſure. A general alarm was ſpread through moſt of the trading and manufacturing parts of the kingdom. They conſidered the admittance of Ireland to any participation in trade, as not only deſtructive, in the moſt ruinous degree, of their property, but as being equally ſubverſive of their rights. They were as little diſpoſed to conſent, that the people of Ireland ſhould cultivate their own manufactures, and diſpoſe of their native commodities at the proper foreign markets, as they were to admit them to any limited degree of commercial participation. In ſhort, the alarm was univerſal, and took ſuch abſolute poſſeſſion of the public attention, that, for a ſhort time, the American war, and all its brooding events, appear to have been forgotten. The city of London, however, preſerved the dignity of its high commercial character, and remained uninfluenced by common opinion, and unmoved by popular clamour. Petitions, therefore, as may be ſuppoſed, were preſented in great numbers, and ſtrong inſtructions ſent to repreſentatives on the occaſion. A curious circumſtance, however, occurred in the courſe of the buſineſs, which afforded a remarkable example of the eagerneſs with which ill-founded popular apprehenſions may be ſometimes communicated and received:—A motion had been made, and a bill was accordingly brought in, for the importation of ſail-cloth from Ireland. This was founded in a miſtake; as the liberty of importing Iriſh ſail-cloth was already eſtabliſhed by a poſitive law, of long ſtanding: yet this bill was as violently oppoſed by petitions from different parts of the kingdom, and as ſtrongly charged with deſtructive conſequences, as the other four bills which it accompanied, and were all framed on new grounds.

On the ſecond reading of the bills, a very powerful oppoſition appeared againſt them.—It was ſtated, on this ſide, that there could be no objection to admit Ireland to enjoy a free trade equally with ourſelves, provided ſhe bore an equal ſhare of the national burthens; but that no tendency to ſuch a proviſion was contained in the bills before them.—That Ireland was ſuppoſed to contain two millions of people, and they were taxed at one million of money, which was ten ſhillings for each perſon; but that Great Britain, with ſix millions of people, was taxed at twelve millions, which was an average payment of forty ſhillings for each perſon: it was therefore concluded, that it would be equally impolitic, unreaſonable, and unjuſt to our own people, who had undertaken this heavy burthen on the faith of the navigation laws, and the ſuppoſed ſtability of our commerce, to paſs the bills then depending. It was added, that this meaſure was of too ſerious a nature, and too complicated in its objects, to be determined at once: that a matter of ſuch magnitude as the overthrowing the whole ſyſtem of our trade laws, was not to be ſo readily concluded; and that it demanded the moſt mature deliberation, the ſtricteſt inveſtigation of facts and circumſtances, and the fulleſt conſideration of future effects and contingencies.—It was was therefore recommended, to refer the general buſineſs of Ireland to a committee, whoſe report might lay the foundation for future mature deliberation; by which means ſuch redreſs might be afforded to Ireland as the ſituation of both countries would admit, without prejudice to the trade of Great Britain.

1778 It was argued, on the other ſide, in favour of the bills, that they propoſed no more than a reſtoration of what the wiſdom of a Britiſh Parliament had, on a former occaſion, thought proper to beſtow on Ireland. The navigation bills paſſed in the 12th of Charles the Second, extended to Ireland as well as England. A kind of crooked policy had, however, deprived her of the freedom ſhe had enjoyed under that law, and ſhe had ever ſince remained in a ſtate of oppreſſive and unnatural reſtriction. Deprived of every incentive to induſtry, and ſhut out almoſt from every paſſage to wealth, ſhe had never complained of her condition. She had done her utmoſt to promote the intereſts and defend the rights of Great Britain, and her reward had been reſtriction and commercial bondage of the moſt cruel nature.

The annual revenue of the two kingdoms, it was ſaid, had been moſt unjuſtly drawn into compariſon, to prove that Ireland did not pay an adequate proportion of taxes; whereas it was not the number of inhabitants which conſtituted the ſpecific difference in the article of taxation between two countries, but the diſtinction of internal opulence, and external advantage; and if the two kingdoms were compared under that idea, it would be found that Ireland was taxed in a quadruple proportion to England. The internal wealth, and external advantage of trade and commerce, are forty times greater in England than in Ireland. There was, therefore, no ratio of proportion in the mode of taxing the latter: ſhe was taxed without enjoying the means of payment. If ſeveral of the Engliſh exciſes had been laid in Ireland, it muſt have been for the ſake of oppreſſion, and not production, and for the benefit of the officers, inſtead of the revenue. Leather, which is taxed in England, would be very trifling in its produce in a country where multitudes of the people never wear ſhoes. Candles are taxed in England, but what revenue would be derived in Ireland, where there are two hundred thouſand houſes in which, probably, a candle, ſuch as we tax, was never lighted. Enlarge the means of payment to Ireland, and, in proportion to her ability, ſhe will increaſe the rate of taxes. An equality of commercial power, it was inſiſted, could not be eſtabliſhed between the two countries; the opulence of the one is a great obſtacle to the other: the great diſproportion of capital, effectually deſtroys the poſſibility of an equality; and as the ability of proceeding would increaſe in the ſame proportion, in the progreſs of the one and of the other, the ſame proportion of advantage would ſtill remain.—The Iriſh would be able to follow the Engliſh at an equal diſtance in every ſtage, both in the outſet and in the continuance; but they would never be able to accelerate their motion ſo as to overtake them.

Counſel and evidence were alſo heard on different parts of the Iriſh buſineſs; and, in conſequence of a compromiſe between the ſupporters and oppoſers of it, which originated rather from the circumſtances of the moment, than any apprehenſions of failure in the former, it was thought expedient to give up, for the preſent, moſt of the advantages that were originally intended, by the bills in queſtion, for Ireland. Some enlargement, however, was given to the linen trade, particularly in the article of checks; and ſome openings afforded in the African and Weſt India trades, which did not exiſt before. This meaſure, therefore, ended rather in being a prelude to future benefit, than producing any great immediate advantage to the people of Ireland.

On the 18th of March, the French King iſſued an order to ſeize all Britiſh ſhips in the ports of France; and, on the 27th, an embargo was laid on all French ſhipping in the river Thames, &c.—About the ſame time, a treaty of friendſhip, guarantee, and commerce, was entered into between the crowns of Spain and Portugal.

A. D. 1778 On the 13th of April, the Earl of Carliſle, George Johnſtone, and William Eden, Eſqrs. were appointed, with Lord and General Howe, his Majeſty's commiſſioners in America; and, on the 16th of the ſame month, they embarked at Portſmouth, to proceed on their commiſſion. On the 9th of May, they arrived at Philadelphia, and immediately forwarded their powers and inſtructions to Congreſs; who, on the 17th, anſwered the commiſſioners letters by a formal rejection of any overture, until the independence of America was firſt acknowledged. That power was not (nor could it be, without parliamentary ſanction) granted by the commiſſion; ſo that this embaſſy, which was ſent out too late to do any good, added another and very mortifying article of diſgrace to the Britiſh government.

Complaints and remonſtrances had been long and repeatedly made by the Weſt India merchants and planters to adminiſtration, of the weak and expoſed ſtate of thoſe iſlands, which ſeemed to be left to the mercy of their powerful European neighbours, without a military force for their defence, or a naval ſquadron for their protection. Jamaica had been very urgent in theſe applications; the immenſe Britiſh capital neceſſarily lodged in that iſland, rendered it no leſs an object of concern in this country, than its great domeſtic property did to the owners of the ſoil. The great increaſe of troops, and the unuſual military preparations in the French and Spaniſh ſettlements, afforded ſufficient reaſon to juſtify the apprehenſions from whence theſe repreſentations originated. Confidential and palliating anſwers were always given; but the fact really was, that the military and naval force of the empire, then on foot, was ſo completely ſwallowed up in the vortex of the American war, that other objects, however important, were neceſſarily, in a great degree, left to the diſpoſition of fortune.

The iſland of Dominica was added to the empire of Great Britain by the treaty of Paris, and was an acquiſition of conſiderable importance; while its ſituation (lying between Martinico and Guadaloupe, and within view of each) added greatly, in time of war, to the value of its poſſeſſion. This circumſtance ſeems to have been ſo well underſtood by government, that the iſland had been fortified at a very great expence, and large quantities of ordnance and military ſtores ſent thither from England; but the garriſon, which conſiſted but of an hundred men, was totally inadequate to the employing thoſe admirable means of defence which the iſland afforded.

The ſituation of Dominica did not eſcape the attention of the Marquis de Bouillé, governor general of Martinico; who, on the 7th of September, in this year, landed about 2000 men, under the cover of ſome frigates and privateers, he ſoon reduced the Britiſh governor to a capitulation; which was ſo liberal, in all its parts, that a mere change of ſovereignty was the only alteration in the condition of the inhabitants.

To aggravate the mortification attendant upon ſuch a loſs, Admiral Barrington lay at this time no further off than Barbadoes, with two ſhips of the line and ſome frigates. His inſtructions were to remain on that ſtation till further orders; and there he had remained two months, without even being informed that hoſtilities had commenced between Great Britain and France: but no ſooner did he receive advice that an attack was made upon Dominica, than, without waiting for further inſtructions, he ſet ſail with all poſſible ſpeed to its aſſiſtance; but though he found that iſland in poſſeſſion of the French, his appearance checked all immediate attempts upon any other of the Britiſh iſlands.

However, in the month of December following, ſome reparation was made to Great Britain by the conqueſt of St. Lucia; which, as it may be well conſidered in the twofold view

A. D. 1778 of a military exploit and a commercial acquiſition, added greatly to the honour and advantage of the Britiſh empire.

The expedition againſt that iſland, it is ſaid, and we believe with great truth, was ſuggeſted by a letter written to Lord George Germaine, then ſecretary of the American department, by a great naval character, at that time unemployed, but who was afterwards called to the ſervice of his country; and, as it fortunately happened, to the preſervation of a moſt important part of the Britiſh empire. Of that inſtructive letter we ſhall give the following extract:—

" I had lately the honour to preſent your lordſhip with the copy of a letter I thought it my duty to ſend to the King's miniſter before the concluſion of the laſt war, pointing out the great conſequence of retaining ſome of the conquered iſlands, particularly Martinico or St. Lucia: and, although at that time I preferred the detention of Martinico, I am now fully convinced that St. Lucia is of more conſequence to Great Britain, for the reaſons I ſhall preſume to give; viz.

" Martinico, though in the moſt flouriſhing condition at the conqueſt, has, ſince the laſt war, had the dreadful misfortune of being peſtered with a ſpecies of ants, which have deſtroyed the country, particularly the windward ſide, in ſuch a manner, as to make it almoſt a deſart, and ruined all the proprietors in that quarter: this plague ſtill continues; and many planters who uſed to make three and four hundred hogſheads of ſugar, now make none. This iſland, though it has four harbours, none of them are equal to the Carenage of St. Lucia, ſo ſecure, or ſo capable of being defended; which alone is of the utmoſt importance to a maritime power. Beſides, the French, ſince the laſt peace, having fortified Mount Garnic, will render the conqueſt of Martinico more difficult, and take up a longer time; whereas St. Lucia having been greatly cleared and cultivated ſince the laſt war, will render the conqueſt eaſier, and more healthy for the troops; and, when poſſeſſed by his Majeſty, be ſuch a check upon the French commerce, as to render Martinico, and their other iſlands, of little uſe; as his Majeſty's ſquadrons ſtationed at that iſland, will have it in their power not only to block up every port in Martinico in a few hours, but likewiſe, (it being equally to the windward with Martinico) the cruizers from St. Lucia can always ſtretch to windward of all the other iſlands, and intercept any ſuccours intended for them. Add to this, the infinite conſequence of the harbour called the Little Carenage, where the largeſt ſhips of war can be careened, be ſecure during the hurricane months, and always ready to afford a ſpeedy ſuccour to his Majeſty's other iſlands, and a certain ſecurity to the ſouthern iſlands of St. Vincent, Grenada, Tobago, &c. &c. which, at preſent, are greatly liable to depredations from the iſlands of Martinico and St. Lucia. The latter iſland being in our hands, will likewiſe put Martinico in the ſame predicament as Dominica is at preſent, viz. between two iſlands of an enemy; and, if attacked, a ſpeedy ſuccour, in a few hours, might be ſent from St. Lucia; whereas, at preſent, whatever ſuccour might be neceſſary to defend Dominica, if attacked, muſt come from Antigua, an iſland far to leeward; and, in all probability, the iſland would fall before ſuch ſuccour could arrive.

" The place for careening and refitting his Majeſty's ſhips in thoſe ſeas, and the ſtation of the admiral who commands them, being at Antigua, an iſland without wood or water, whoſe harbour is ſmall, and incapable of receiving large ſhips of war, and to the leeward of all the enemy's iſlands, muſt be extremely detrimental to his Majeſty's and the public ſervice, during a French war, muſt give the enemy great advantage, and alone points out the neceſſity of taking either Martinico or St. Lucia.

" That

" That Great Britain has at this juncture a ſufficient force to effect an object ſo deſireable, I ſhall endeavour to prove: for though the war we are unhappily engaged in with the rebellious Americans, has not, as yet reduced them to obedience, yet it has given Great Britain a veteran fleet and a veteran army, capable of undertaking any enterprize, either in America or the Weſt Indies: and as the ſeaſon for an army to act in America, is at a time when it would be improper to act in the Weſt Indies; ſo, the ſeaſon to act in the Weſt Indies, is at a time when they ſhould not act in America, viz. from November to June: if, therefore, part of the army now in America, was detached in November or December, attended with twelve or fourteen ſhips of the line, as many frigates, and ſome bomb veſſels, with orders to rendezvous at Barbadoes, they, in all probability, would be enabled to put his Majeſty's commands into execution at the moſt proper and healthy ſeaſon; more eſpecially, as the enemy could not poſſibly know what number of ſhips or troops were ſent on that enterprize, time enough to prevent its ſucceeding. And as there is not a doubt but his Majeſty's admiral cruizing off Uſhant will detach a ſufficient number of his ſhips from his ſquadron to the Weſt Indies, ſhould a part of the Breſt fleet eſcape his vigilance, and attempt to ſuccour their Weſt India iſlands.

" Should this enterprize be undertaken, I muſt humbly beg leave to repreſent, whether it will not be proper to direct, what ſort of capitulation the admiral and general ſhould allow the inhabitants: for want of ſuch inſtructions and proper information, the French conquered iſlands eſcaped a duty they ſhould certainly have paid; and his Majeſty, at this hour, is deprived of a conſiderable revenue juſtly his due.

" When the iſland of Martinico offered to capitulate, I ſent for ſeveral of the planters belonging to the Britiſh iſlands, who then attended the fleet to be preſent at the ſiege, to deſire their aſſiſtance in penning an article that might make the French iſlands pay more duty than thoſe of the Engliſh: the article relative to the clayed ſugar, was what they unanimouſly offered me; and as all the ſugar of Martinico was clayed, I concluded his Majeſty would receive a conſiderable ſum more than what the Engliſh iſlands paid: but, ſome time after, hearing that the Britiſh iſlands paid 4½ per cent. on the export of their commodities, I was extremely diſpleaſed with the gentlemen belonging to the Britiſh iſlands for not acquainting me with their paying that duty, of which I was totally ignorant. Other admirals and generals may be the ſame, unleſs properly cautioned.

" If the inhabitants be allowed to keep their lands, upon capitulation, ſhould any but thoſe really upon the ſpot have that indulgence; and thoſe, only the lands then actually cleared? all other lands whatever to belong to the crown, as likewiſe one or two miles round the Carenage, in order to erect fortifications, a dock-yard, and to build a town, the quit-rents of which might bring in a conſiderable revenue; as there cannot be a doubt but inhabitants would flock from all the other iſlands, to inhabit a place of ſuch ſecurity.

" Should his Majeſty retain this iſland, I humbly ſubmit, whether, when the lands are ſold, it will not be of great advantage towards peopling the iſland, to have a conſiderable quantity of land in each pariſh allotted to ten-acre men, under the penalty of forfeiting it to the crown, ſhould it ever be converted to any other uſe than proviſion ground. This will always keep a conſiderable number of white men on the iſland, and is the reaſon why Barbadoes has more inhabitants than all the other iſlands."

In the latter part of this year, the merchants, owners of ſhips, and exchange inſurers of the towns of Amſterdam, Rotterdam, and Dordrecht, preſented three memorials to the States-

General

1778 General of the United Provinces, relating to the ſeizure of their ſhips, &c. by thoſe of Great Britain: of theſe memorials we give the ſubſtance, as follows:—

"That, very lately, a conſiderable number of ſhips belonging to the inhabitants of theſe ſtates, and bound for France, have been ſtopped at ſea, either by the ſhips of the royal marine of England, or by commiſſioned ſhips of the ſame nation, and afterwards carried into the ports of Great Britain, where they continue to be detained, notwithſtanding the bare inſpection of the conſignments, and other papers found on board the above ſhips, would ſufficiently ſhew that they were not laden with any ſort of merchandize under the denomination of contraband goods, ſpecified by the third article of the marine treaty, concluded in the month of December, 1674, between the court of Great Britain and this republic.

"That this conduct of the Britiſh nation, (the flagrant injuſtice of which might be very eaſily proved by an appeal to the law of nations, if it be not already evident, as well by the aforeſaid treaty, as by the explanatory convention of 1675) will infallibly accelerate the entire ruin of the commerce and navigation of the United Provinces, if not timely and efficaciouſly prevented.

"Notwithſtanding the many arguments that might be urged, your memorialiſts will not trouble your High Mightineſſes with all the reaſons they have to allege in proof that the deſtruction of our commerce and navigation muſt follow, as the unavoidable conſequence of the unjuſt proceedings of the Engliſh, our neighbours, of which there is no occaſion of any further proof, it having already been fully repreſented to your High Mightineſſes.

"Your memorialiſts, therefore, only aſſume the liberty of obſerving, in very few words, that by the ſeizure of their ſhips, although they may afterwards be releaſed, even with indemnity, the neceſſary delays in ſuch caſes are yet highly prejudicial, and totally ruinous to the merchants of theſe provinces.

"That, during the detention of the merchandize, the commodities are expoſed to the injury of the fall of markets; and the merchants are, beſides, in that interval, deprived of the opportunity of furniſhing themſelves, in return, with ſuch goods as they intended, when the firſt cargoes arrived at their deſtined ports.

"In ſhort, the Dutch ſhips employed for the tranſportation of merchandize to France, and elſewhere, being detained, will, without doubt, (the reſult of ſuch proceedings out of the queſtion) occaſion fewer numbers to be hired in ſuch ſervice for the future.

"That this ſeizure and detention are not only in themſelves ſufficient entirely to ruin our commerce and navigation, but that this ruin will be more rapidly brought on, whenever it ſhall pleaſe the Engliſh nation to make a ſecond ſtride of injuſtice, and having ſeized the ſhips bound for our French merchants, or from France to this ſtate, they have only to declare them legal prizes.

"That this proſpect is ſtill more deplorable, when your memorialiſts reflect on the regulation given by his Chriſtian Majeſty, on the 26th of July laſt, concerning the navigation of neutral ſhips; becauſe, although that monarch therein forbids the ſtoppage and ſeizure of neutral ſhips, bound to or from an enemy's port, he nevertheleſs reſerves to himſelf a right of revoking that edict, in caſe any foreign power ſhould not agree to the ſame regulation reſpecting neutral ſhips. From hence it neceſſarily reſults, that, if the Engliſh continue to detain and ſeize our ſhips coming from France, or going thereto, we may expect the ſame treatment from the French, with regard to our ſhips coming from, or going to Great Britain; and, by theſe

A. D. 1778 theſe means, and to the total ruin of theſe ſtates, they will be deprived of the benefits of commerce and navigation with both countries."

The remoſtrance made to the court of Great Britain by the States-General, in conſequence of theſe memorials, was anſwered by Sir Joſeph Yorke; who, in a mild, but ſpirited manner, declared, that the interruption given to the commerce of Holland was never exerciſed but when the ſubjects of that republic were carrying warlike and naval ſtores to the enemies of Great Britain.

It would be inexcuſable in the hiſtorian of any part of the preſent period, to paſs by unnoticed the event of Lord Chatham's death, which happened on the 11th of May, in this year; and it would ill become us not to offer our tribute of ſincere veneration for his illuſtrious character, as it was during his glorious adminiſtration that commerce was firſt made to flouriſh in the midſt of war.

The produce of the coach revenue for 1778, amounted to 117,000l. which proves that 23,000 coaches then paid duty.

It appears, that during the courſe of this year, 4,425 ſhips cleared from Newcaſtle; of which 4,140 were coaſters, and 285 deſtined for foreign ports.

The following is an authentic account of the number of ſhips which have been employed from England in the whale-fiſhery, at Davis's Straits and the Greenland ſeas, from the year 1755, to 1778 incluſive.

Years.	*Ships.*	*Years.*	*Ships.*
1755	66	1767	39
1756	67	1768	41
1757	55	1769	44
1758	52	1770	50
1759	34	1771	50
1760	40	1772	48
1761	31	1773	55
1762	28	1774	65
1763	30	1775	96
1764	32	1776	91
1765	33	1777	77
1766	35	1778	71

☞ A bounty of 30s. per ton was given for the two laſt years.

The following is alſo a correct ſtatement of the number of ſhips employed by Holland in the whale-fiſhery, from the year 1770, to 1778 incluſive.

Years.	*Ships.*	*Years.*	*Ships.*
1770	150	1775	129
1771	150	1776	123
1772	131	1777	116
1773	134	1778	111
1774	130		1,174 In all.

By which it appears, upon a comparative view of theſe laſt nine years, that the number of ſhips employed by the Hollanders in this important branch of commerce, exceeded that of the Engliſh nearly in the proportion as two is to one.

The

A. D.

1778 The following are authentic extracts from the Corn Regiſter, containing an account of all corn and grain exported from, and imported into England and Scotland, for eight years, viz. from 1771, to 1778.

EXPORTED. 1771.	*Britiſh* *Qrs.*	*Foreign* *Qrs.*
ENGLAND.		
Wheat and Flour,	10,089	—
Barley and Malt,	31,166	—
Oats and Oatmeal,	23,364	—
Beans, —	13,345	—
Peas, —	3,701	—
SCOTLAND.		
Barley and Malt,	203	—
Oats and Oatmeal,	11,869	—
Beans, —	3	—
Peas, —	3	—
Barley and Bear,	2,829	—
Bear and Meal,	18	—

IMPORTED. 1771.	*Quarters.*
ENGLAND.	
Wheat and Flour,	2,509
Rye, —	2,179
Barley and Malt,	228
Oats and Oatmeal,	198,072
Beans, —	67
Peas, —	64
Indian corn, —	3
SCOTLAND.	
Wheat and Flour,	2
Oats and Oatmeal,	14,255

The bounties and drawbacks on corn exported from England, amounted to 6,170l. 7s. 6d. There were no bounties paid on grain exported from Scotland this year.—The duties on corn imported into England, amounted to 13,170l. 2s. 1d.; and in Scotland, to 547l. 8s. 11d.

[When foreign grain is imported, and not ſold, it is, by act of Parliament, ſuffered to be warehouſed, without paying duty; and if exported again, it is here arranged under the title of *Foreign*, to diſtinguiſh it from *Britiſh*.]

EXPORTED. 1772.	*Britiſh* *Qrs.*	*Foreign* *Qrs.*
ENGLAND.		
Wheat and Flour,	6,959	—
Barley and Malt,	13,789	—
Oats and Oatmeal,	23,511	—
Beans, —	13,321	—
Peas, —	3,775	—
SCOTLAND.		
Oats and Oatmeal,	87	—
Barley and Bear,	242	—

IMPORTED. 1772.	*Quarters.*
ENGLAND.	
Wheat and Flour,	23,134
Rye, —	4,799
Barley and Malt,	2,107
Oats and Oatmeal,	70,542
Beans, —	469
Peas, —	17
Indian corn, —	3
Buck Wheat, —	1
SCOTLAND.	
Wheat and Flour,	2,340
Barley and Malt,	961
Oats and Oatmeal,	36,277
Peas, —	4
Buck Wheat, —	1

There were no bounties, &c. paid for corn exported either from England or Scotland this year.—The duties received on grain imported into England, amounted to 2,393l. 6s. 10d. and in Scotland, to 1,372l. 14s. 11d.

EX-

EXPORTED.

1773.	*British* *Qrs.*	*Foreign* *Qrs.*
ENGLAND.		
Wheat and Flour,	7,637	—
Barley and Malt,	2,445	—
Oats and Oatmeal,	18,671	—
Beans, —	10,733	—
Peas, —	4,430	—
SCOTLAND.		
Oats and Oatmeal,	106	—
Beans, —	18	—
Barley and Bear,	30	—

IMPORTED.

1773.	*Quarters.*
ENGLAND.	
Wheat and Flour,	50,312
Rye, —	9,253
Barley and Malt,	51,221
Oats and Oatmeal,	234,366
Beans, —	49,858
Peas, —	3,254
Indian Corn,	6,322
Buck Wheat,	53
SCOTLAND.	
Wheat and Flour,	6,545
Rye, —	2
Oats and Oatmeal,	95,088
Beans, —	4,002
Peas, —	4,002
Barley and Bear,	12,695

☞ There were no bounties or drawbacks paid on the exportation, nor any duties received on the importation of grain, in this year, for either England or Scotland.

EXPORTED.

1774.	*British* *Qrs.*	*Foreign* *Qrs.*
ENGLAND.		
Wheat and Flour,	15,171	757
Rye, —	1,434	826
Barley and Malt,	2,416	—
Oats and Oatmeal,	16,286	25
Beans, —	9,443	797
Peas, —	3,211	107
Indian Corn,	—	1,880
Buck Wheat,	—	50
SCOTLAND.		
Oats and Oatmeal,	122	—
Beans, —	9	—
Barley and Bear,	495	—

IMPORTED.

1774.	*Quarters.*
ENGLAND.	
Wheat and Flour,	269,235
Rye, —	41,427
Barley and Malt,	155,148
Oats and Oatmeal,	312,908
Beans, —	16,401
Peas, —	2,780
Indian Corn,	5,945
SCOTLAND.	
Wheat and Flour,	19,914
Oats and Oatmeal,	86,591
Beans, —	2,505
Peas, —	2,705
Barley and Bear,	16,360
Buck Wheat,	4

The amount of the bounties and drawbacks paid, in this year, upon the exportation of grain from England, was 5,961l. 12s.: and upon that from Scotland, to 61l. 11s. 10d.

The duties received upon grain imported into England, amounted to 12,379l. 4s. 3d.: and upon that imported into Scotland, to 1,336l. 11s. 8d.

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EXPORTED.			*IMPORTED.*	
1775.	*Britiſh* *Qrs.*	*Foreign* *Qrs.*	1775.	*Quarters.*
ENGLAND.			ENGLAND.	
Wheat and Flour,	28,348	62,649	Wheat and Flour,	544,641
Rye, —	2,471	251	Rye, —	33,574
Barley and Malt,	45,454	5,940	Barley and Malt,	126,332
Oats and Oatmeal,	22,593	3,773	Oats and Oatmeal,	283,827
Beans, —	14,075	343	Beans, —	29,862
Peas, —	4,717	212	Peas, —	11,275
Indian Corn,	——	4,323	Indian Corn,	9,638
SCOTLAND.			SCOTLAND.	
Wheat and Flour,	40	——	Wheat and Flour,	16,347
Barley and Malt,	20	——	Barley and Malt,	13,119
Oats and Oatmeal,	119	——	Oats and Oatmeal,	101,115
Beans, —	2	——	Beans, —	1,657
			Peas, —	1,658

The bounties paid, in this year, upon grain exported from England, amounted to the ſum of 7,842l. 10s. 11d.: and the total of the drawbacks was 1,798l. 16s. 8d.

There were no bounties nor drawbacks paid, in this year, upon the grain exported from Scotland.

The amount of the duties received, in 1775, upon the grain imported into England, was 18,442l. 18s. 2d.: and 1,355l. 1s. 5d. was the amount of the duty received upon that imported into Scotland.

EXPORTED.			*IMPORTED.*	
1776.	*Britiſh* *Qrs.*	*Foreign* *Qrs.*	1776.	*Quarters.*
ENGLAND.			ENGLAND.	
Wheat and Flour,	174,940	32,467	Wheat and Flour,	20,148
Rye, —	10,369	630	Rye, —	3,415
Barley and Malt,	129,104	2,160	Barley and Malt,	8,020
Oats and Oatmeal,	21,936	8,686	Oats and Oatmeal,	373,707
Beans, —	33,338	7,006	Beans, —	19,055
Peas, —	6,562	8,043	Peas, —	19,776
Indian Corn,	——	1,957		
SCOTLAND.			SCOTLAND.	
Wheat and Flour,	3,247	——	Wheat and Flour,	430
Barley and Malt,	422	——	Barley and Malt,	479
Oats and Oatmeal,	4,365	——	Oats and Oatmeal,	4,859
Beans, —	543	——	Peas —	12
Peas, —	543	——		
Barley and Bear,	4,428	——		

The amount of the bounties paid, in 1776, on the grain exported from England, was 50,925l. 7s. 2d.; and the drawbacks were 786l. 8s. The bounties paid upon the exportation of grain from Scotland, amounted to 1,322l. 13s. 9d.

The whole amount of the duties received on the grain imported into England, in the courſe of this year, was 3,658l. 5s. 5d.; and on that to Scotland, was 30l. 12s. 7d.

A. D. 1778

EXPORTED.

1777.	*Britiſh* Qrs.	*Foreign* Qrs.
ENGLAND.		
Wheat and Flour,	79,120	5,914
Rye, —	719	227
Barley and Malt,	132,513	479
Oats and Oatmeal,	16,874	12,507
Beans, —	22,449	7,492
Peas, —	6,629	6,742
Indian Corn,	——	8
SCOTLAND.		
Wheat and Flour,	2,652	——
Barley and Malt,	3,645	——
Oats and Oatmeal,	7,233	——
Beans, —	422	——
Peas, —	422	——
Barley and Bear,	6,088	——

IMPORTED.

1777.	*Quarters.*
ENGLAND.	
Wheat and Flour,	233,069
Rye, —	18,454
Barley and Malt,	7,981
Oats and Oatmeal,	366,155
Beans, —	35,127
Peas, —	28,702
Buck Wheat,	10
SCOTLAND.	
Wheat and Flour,	254
Oats and Oatmeal,	291

The bounties paid, in 1777, on the grain exported from England, amounted to 43,250l. and 7d.; and the amount of the drawbacks, for the ſame year, was 102l. 1s. 10d.; and the amount of the bounties upon that exported from Scotland, was 2,426l. 15s. 10d.

The duties received, in this year, upon grain imported into England, 8,835l. 13s. 9d.; and upon that imported into Scotland, 14s. 9d.

EXPORTED.

1778.	*Britiſh* Qrs.	*Foreign* Qrs.
ENGLAND.		
Wheat and Flour,	124,698	13,077
Rye, —	1,689	17
Barley and Malt,	100,820	1,391
Oats and Oatmeal,	20,810	8,043
Beans, —	17,787	3,962
Peas, —	9,399	6,221
SCOTLAND.		
Wheat and Flour,	3,295	——
Barley and Malt,	924	——
Oats and Oatmeal,	27,690	——
Beans, —	653	——
Peas, —	653	——
Barley and Bear,	795	——

IMPORTED.

1778.	*Quarters.*
ENGLAND.	
Wheat and Flour,	106,394
Rye, —	9,327
Barley and Malt,	42,514
Oats and Oatmeal,	199,680
Beans, —	30,165
Peas, —	27,768
SCOTLAND.	
Barley and Malt,	200
Oats and Oatmeal,	1,490

The bounties paid, in this year, upon the grain exported from England, amounted to 40,101l. 16s. 3d.: and 224l. 8s. 6d. was the amount of the drawbacks, during the ſame period: and the amount of the bounties upon that exported from Scotland, was 3,704l. 11s. 6d.

The whole of the duties received, in 1778, upon the importation of grain to England, was 4,890l. 5s. 7d.; and upon that imported into Scotland, 14l. 3s. 9d.

A. D. 1778 The following is an account of the average prices of corn in England and Wales, by the ſtandard Wincheſter buſhel, for eight years, from the commencement of the corn regiſter act in the year 1770.

	Wheat.		*Rye.*		*Barley.*		*Oats.*		*Beans.*	
	s.	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*
1771	5	10¾	4	3½	3	2½	2	1	3	6¾
1772	6	4	4	7	3	2	2	0¼	3	9
1773	6	4½	4	2	3	6½	2	1¼	4	1½
1774	6	7	4	3½	3	6¾	2	2¾	3	10¾
1775	6	0½	4	1¼	3	3	2	0¾	3	7
1776	4	9¼	3	4¼	2	6¼	1	10½	3	3¾
1777	5	8¼	3	6	2	6¾	1	11½	3	6¾
1778	5	3	3	6½	2	10	1	10¾	3	5½
Average of the eight years,	5	10½	3	11¾	3	1	2	0½	3	8

The prices of the fineſt and coarſeſt ſorts of grain generally exceed and reduce the average price as follows, viz.

Per buſhel, Wheat, 6d. Rye, 3d. Barley, 3d. Oats, 3d. Beans, 6d.

The quantity of gold coin brought into the mint from Great Britain and Ireland, by the proclamations in 1773, 1774, and 1776, was as follows:

	£.	s.	d.	
By the firſt proclamation,	3,806,435	7	2	deficient more than 6 grains in a guinea.
By the ſecond ditto,	4,876,171	18	3	deficient between 3 and 4 grains.
By the third ditto,	6,880,986	5	3	deficient between 1 and 3 grains.
Total of gold coin called in,	15,563,593	10	8	

The expence attending the calling in, re-coinage, &c. of which was, viz.—

	£.	s.	d.
Expence to the Bank for melting, — —	16,786	14	6
Deficiency in melting, — — —	317,314	6	11
Intereſt of money advanced to the holders of gold coin, —	231,982	17	7
To the maſter of the mint, for the charge of recoining, &c.	115,459	12	9
To certain perſons appointed in ſeveral counties to take in and exexchange the gold coin, and for other charges and expences,	72,476	8	0
Total expence of calling in the light gold coin,	754,019	19	9

N. B. The loſs from the deficiency in the coin brought in by the firſt proclamation, (amounting nearly to 300,000l.) was thrown on the holders of the coin, and therefore could not be included in this account.

In the courſe of this year, a trial of the pyx of all the monies coined in the Tower ſince Midſummer 1774, was made at Weſtminſter, before the lords of the privy council; when the gold monies, amounting to above ſixteen millions of pounds ſterling, were reported to be perfectly agreeable in firmneſs to the ſtandard trial plates kept in the Exchequer for that ſervice.—

It

A. D. 1778 It appeared alſo, that twenty millions and an half of guineas and half-guineas had been coined in his Majeſty's mint ſince the beginning of 1772.

The following bills relating to trade and commerce, received the royal aſſent in the courſe of this year.

To allow the exportation of a certain quantity of corn, peas and biſcuit, to Newfoundland, for a limited time.

For the benefit of captors of prizes from the enemy.

To enable his Majeſty to appoint commiſſioners, with ſufficient powers, to treat and agree upon the means of quieting the diſturbances now ſubſiſting in certain of the American colonies.

To declare the intentions of the Parliament of Great Britain, concerning the exerciſe of impoſing taxes of the American colonies.

To repeal an act, that impoſed a duty on tea imported from Great Britain into any of the American colonies.

To repeal an act for regulating the government of Maſſachuſet's Bay.

For the more effectually preventing the forgery of acceptances of bills of exchange, or number of principal ſums of acceptable receipts, for notes, bills, &c.

[This act declares, " that if any perſon ſhall falſely make, alter, forge, or counterfeit, or cauſe or procure to be falſely made, altered, forged, or counterfeited, or willingly act or aſſiſt in the falſe making, altering, forging, or counterfeiting any acceptance of any bill of exchange, or the number or principal ſum of any accountable receipt for any note, bill, or other ſecurity for payment of money, or any warrant or order for payment of money or delivery of goods, with intention to defraud any corporation whatſoever; or ſhall utter or publiſh as true, any falſe, altered, forged, or counterfeited acceptances of any bill of exchange, or accountable receipt for any note, bill, or other ſecurity for payment of money, or warrant or order for payment of money or delivery of goods, with intention to defraud any corporation whatſoever, knowing the ſame to be falſe, altered, forged, or counterfeited; every ſuch perſon, being lawfully convicted thereof, ſhall be deemed guilty of felony, and ſhall ſuffer death as a felon without benefit of clergy."]

For enlarging the pier and harbour of Scarborough: and alſo ſeveral navigable bills.

For laying a tax on all inhabited houſes, &c.

For laying additional duties on French and other wines imported into this kingdom.

To repeal ſuch part of an act, as relates to the manner of diſcharging bonds given on the exportation of goods to foreign parts.

To prevent the clandeſtine conveyance of ſugars from the American colonies.

For the relief of inſolvent debtors.

For allowing the exportation of certain enumerated goods directly from Ireland, to any of the Britiſh plantations in America, or any of the Britiſh ſettlements on the coaſt of Africa.

To allow the free importation of cotton yarn, manufactured in Ireland, into any of the Britiſh ports.

For regulating lottery offices, &c.

The principal clauſes in this bill, are as follows:

" To oblige every lottery-office keeper to take out a licence, at the expence of 50l. and give ſecurity not to infringe any part of the act.

" That

A. D. 1778 "That no perſon ſhall diſpoſe of any part of a ticket in any ſmaller ſhare or proportion than a ſixteenth, on 50l. penalty.

"That any perſon ſelling goods, wares, or other merchandize, or who ſhall offer any ſum or ſums of money, upon any chance or event whatſoever, relating to the drawing of any ticket, ſhall be liable to a penalty of 20l.

"To enable the commiſſioners of his Majeſty's Treaſury to eſtabliſh an office;—all ſhares to be ſtamped at that office;—the original tickets from which ſuch ſhares are to be taken, to be kept at that office, till a certain time after drawing;—books of entry to be regularly kept;—perſons carrying ſhares to be ſtamped to pay a ſmall ſum ſpecified in the act;—penalties for perſons ſelling ſhares not ſtamped; and a clauſe for puniſhing perſons who ſhall forge the ſtamp of any ticket."

The following acts of Parliament of Ireland alſo received the royal aſſent in the courſe of this year.

For continuing an act for the further encouragement of tillage.

For the further encouragement of the whale fiſhery carried on from Ireland.

For the relief of inſolvent debtors.

For preventing the cutting or deſtroying of plain, ſtained, or printed linens, cottons, lawns, or muſlins, or other manufactured goods.

For regulating the price and aſſize of bread, preventing frauds and impoſitions in the ſale of flour, meal, beer, ale, potatoes, butcher's meat, and other articles ſold by weight or meaſure in the county of Dublin.

To amend and continue an act for better regulating the baking trade in the city of Dublin, and for other purpoſes.

To explain and amend the acts made for the encouragement of the fiſheries of that kingdom.

For encouraging the planting of timber trees.

To oblige ſhips more effectually to perform quarantine, and for better preventing the plague being brought from foreign parts into Ireland, and to hinder the ſpreading of infection, &c.

SUPPLIES granted by Parliament for this year:—	£.	s.	d.
For 60,000 ſeamen, including 11,829 marines,	3,120,000	0	0
For the ordinary of the navy, including half-pay, &c.	389,200	16	0
Towards building and repairing ſhips of war,	488,695	0	0
Towards diſcharging the navy debt,	1,000,000	0	0
On account of Greenwich Hoſpital,	4,000	0	0
For 20,057 effective land-forces, &c.	634,240	3	11
For the pay of the general and ſtaff-officers, &c.	11,473	18	6½
For maintaining forces and garriſons in the plantations, Africa, &c.	960,843	18	9
For the difference of pay between the Britiſh and Iriſh eſtabliſhments,	52,923	1	6
For five Hanoverian battalions ſerving at Gibraltar and Minorca,	56,074	19	4½
For the charge of 13,472 Heſſian troops and ſubſidy,	367,203	9	10
For ditto of two regiments of foot of Hanau,	35,441	19	9½
Ditto of one regiment of Waldeck,	17,370	8	2¾
For the charge of 4,300 Brunſwickers,	93,947	15	8
For ditto of 1,241 troops of Brandenburg Anſpach,	34,007	2	11
For proviſions for the foreign troops ſerving in America,	47,160	13	3
Carried forward,	7,312,583	7	9¼

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	£.	s.	d.
Brought over,	7,312,583	7	9¼
For making good the ſum voted laſt ſeſſion for the Hanau troops,	1,675	17	1
For artillery for the foreign troops,	27,379	10	8
For the charge of ſeveral augmentations of the Britiſh forces, from their ſeveral commencements to the 24th of December,	286,632	14	6
For the charge of certain army augmentations, &c.	18,895	5	2
For ditto,	80,319	14	1
For ditto of a corps of infantry of Anhalt Zerbſt, &c.	18,071	12	0
For defraying the charge of the militia, embodied from March 26, 1778, to the 24th of December following,	402,622	9	0
For additional cloathing for ditto,	37,559	7	6
For three regiments of fencibles to be raiſed in North Britain, from April 25, 1778, to the 24th of December following,	45,608	2	0
For the charge of out-penſioners of Chelſea Hoſpital, &c.	105,431	15	5
On account of the reduced officers of his Majeſty's land forces, &c.	90,939	15	0
For allowances to ſeveral officers and private gentlemen of the two reduced troops of horſe-guards, &c.	712	0	5
For penſions to the widows of certain reduced officers,	238	0	0
Towards defraying the extraordinaries of the army, &c.	1,469,923	1	4
For the charge of the office of ordnance for the land ſervice, &c.	382,816	2	8
For ſervices performed by ditto for ditto, not provided for in 1777,	300,483	13	10
On account of new roads and bridges in the Highlands of North Britain,	6,998	12	5
For the civil eſtabliſhment of the iſland of St. John,	3,200	0	0
Ditto of Georgia,	2,866	0	0
Ditto of Nova Scotia,	4,701	10	8
Ditto of Eaſt Florida,	4,950	0	0
Ditto of Weſt Florida,	4,900	0	0
Ditto of Senegambia,	5,550	0	0
On account of general ſurveys in North America,	2,372	0	0
For defraying the extra expences of calling in and recoining the deficient coin of the kingdom,	105,227	8	3
To Mr. Edward Moore, for thirteen years employment in compiling a general index to the journals of the Houſe of Commons,	6,400	0	0
To the Rev. Mr. Forſter for eight years ditto,	3,000	0	0
To the Rev. Dr. Roger Flaxman for nine years ditto,	3,000	0	0
To Mr. Cunningham, in part of his payment for compiling a general index, &c.	500	0	0
To make good the deficiency on the 5th of July, 1777, of the fund eſtabliſhed for paying certain annuities, &c.	43,621	10	0
To make good to his Majeſty the like ſum iſſued by his Majeſty's orders, in purſuance of the addreſſes of the Houſe of Commons,	19,100	0	0
For the relief of certain American civil officers, &c.	56,680	2	6
To Mr. Duncan Campbell, for employing convicts on the Thames,	9,075	3	11
For repairing, &c. Britiſh forts and ſettlements on the coaſt of Africa,	13,000	0	0
Carried over,	10,877,004	16	2¼

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	£.	s.	d.
Brought over,	10,877,004	16	2¼
Towards diſcharging certain Exchequer bills,	1,500,000	0	0
For ditto, to be charged on the firſt aids granted in this year,	1,000,000	0	0
For diſcharging the prizes of the lottery of 1777,	480,000	0	0
To replace to the ſinking fund the like ſum paid out of the ſame,	38,493	2	7½
Deficiency in the land-tax,	252,000	0	0
Ditto in the malt-tax,	200,000	0	0
Total Supplies,	14,347,497	18	9¾

The WAYS and MEANS for raiſing the foregoing ſupplies.

	£.	s.	d.
Duty on malt,	750,000	0	0
Land tax at 4s.	2,000,000	0	0
By annuities and lottery,	6,480,000	0	0
By Exchequer bills,	1,500,000	0	0
By certain ſurpluſſes of the ſinking fund,	703,790	18	3½
By ditto,	2,296,209	1	8½
By ditto,	4,976	17	1½
By certain deductions out of ſalaries, penſions, &c.	46,825	0	0
From the ſurplus of the two-ſevenths of exciſe, &c.	31,154	17	8¼
Certain ſavings in the hands of the Paymaſter-general,	37,921	3	10
Ditto,	27,690	0	0
By Exchequer Bills,	500,000	0	0
Total of Ways and Means,	14,378,567	18	7¾
Supplies granted,	14,347,497	18	9¾
Exceſs of proviſions,	31,069	19	10

☞ The vote of credit for one million, granted this ſeſſion, and the 500,000l. loan of the fourth of May, are both charged on the next aids.

	£.	s.	d.
It appears from the above accounts, that the additional public debt funded this year, amounts to ſix millions; the intereſt of which, at 3 per cent. per annum, is	180,000	0	0
Together with the additional annuity of 2l. 10s. per cent. per annum, for thirty years, which amounts to	150,000	0	0
Total amount,	330,000	0	0

This ſum was raiſed in the following manner:—

	£.	s.	d.
By a tax on houſes,	264,000	0	0
By an additional tax of eight guineas per tun on all French wines, and four guineas per tun on all other wines imported,	72,558	0	0
Total of new taxes,	336,558	0	0
Intereſt of the additional public debt funded this year,	330,000	0	0
Exceſs of new taxes,	6,558	0	0

The

1778 The number of chriſtenings and burials from December 16, 1777, to December 15, 1778, within the London bills of mortality, is as follows:—

Christened.		Buried.	
Males,	8,793	Males,	10,235
Females,	8,507	Females,	10,164
In all,	17,300	In all,	20,399

In the city of Paris, during this year, there were born 11,445 males, and 10,821 females; in all, 22,266.—Died, 9,101 males, and 8,011 females; in all, 17,112: and 6,705 children were brought to the foundling hoſpital.

A treatiſe was about this time publiſhed in France, in which a calculation is made of the population of the moſt remarkable cities in the world. We are very ſenſible of the great difficulty, if not impoſſibility of being accurate in accounts of this nature, as well as the partiality of a French calculator; nevertheleſs, as this ſeems to be the reſult of an induſtrious enquiry, we ſhall not heſitate to inſert it.

Paris,	—	about 823,276	increaſing.
Madrid,	—	—— 340,000	ditto.
London,	—	—— 930,000	decreaſing.
Amſterdam,	—	—— 350,000	increaſing.
Liſbon,	—	—— 200,000	ditto.
Conſtantinople,	—	—— 700,000	decreaſing.
Venice,	—	—— 160,000	ditto.
Dantzic,	—	—— 240,000	ditto.
Peterſburg,	—	—— 200,000	increaſing.
Copenhagen,	—	—— 100,000	ditto.
Stockholm,	—	—— 95,000	ditto.
Naples,	—	—— 230,000	decreaſing.
Pekin, in China,		—— 900,000	ditto.
Rome,	—	—— 200,000	ditto.
Moſcow,	—	—— 400,000	ditto.

1779 The commencement of this year did not poſſeſs an appearance auſpicious to the intereſts of the Britiſh empire. The commiſſioners were returned from America, without having anſwered any purpoſe of national honour or utility. In ſhort, the whole ſyſtem of public affairs was now entirely different from what it had been to the preſent criſis, and the diſputes between Great Britain and her colonies were changed into a war between this kingdom and France.—The queſtion therefore was, at this time, whether we ſhould paſſively ſubmit to the perfidious dictates of that ambitious power, and ſuffer it, without reſiſtance, to wreſt, as it were, our property out of our hands, or endeavour, by calling forth every national reſource, and employing every energy of the empire, to force the rebellious colonies to obedience, and make the enemy who had fomented, and now ſupported that rebellion, feel all the ſeverity of Britiſh vengeance.

France and America having engaged in one common war with Great Britain, the proſecution of war with the one, neceſſarily included hoſtilities with the other. To act without vigour in America, from the hopes of producing reconciliation, would have been weakneſs in

1779 the extreme; and to have aſſented to her independence, in order to direct the whole force of the Britiſh empire to the puniſhment of France, (which was a meaſure recommended by ſome leading perſons of the party who oppoſed the miniſtry) would have found no encouragement from the general opinion of the nation.—Nay, it was in oppoſition to ſuch an opinion, delivered by the Duke of Richmond in the Houſe of Lords, that Lord Chatham uttered his laſt words,—pouring forth, even amidſt pain and death, the laſt effuſions of that brilliant and energetic ſoul, whoſe unbounded powers were uniformly exerted in the ſervice of his country: thus cloſing a glorious life, by a ſtill more glorious exit.

The war with France was, in truth, a matter of neceſſity: Parliament conſidered it in that point of view, and expreſſed its warmeſt reſolutions to ſupport the crown to the utmoſt in the proſecution of it; while the nation in general manifeſted the moſt ſincere determination to ſecond the efforts of government.

At this time, the iſſue of the engagement between the Britiſh and French fleets, on the 27th of July, in laſt year, was become a renewed matter of conſideration among all ranks and claſſes of people. The diſcuſſion of this ſubject not only animated private converſation, but became the principal topic of the different public prints; till, at length, it was introduced into Parliament, and brought on the public accuſation of Admiral Keppel, for miſconduct, &c. by Sir Hugh Palliſer, who had commanded the blue diviſion of the fleet under him. In conſequence of this charge, Admiral Keppel was brought to trial by a court-martial; and, after a long inveſtigation of every ſpecies of evidence that could be produced, he was acquitted of all the charges that had been brought againſt him, in the moſt honourable manner. He was declared, in the moſt explicit terms, to have acted the part of a judicious, brave, and experienced officer; and the accuſation was condemned in terms of the utmoſt ſeverity.

This engagement, it was contended, excepting the mere deſtruction of the enemy's ſhips, had produced all the benefits which could have been derived from the moſt complete victory; as, in conſequence of it, the Britiſh commerce was fully protected, while that of France was greatly diſtreſſed; and the Britiſh fleet remained maſter of the ſea during the remainder of the campaign, while that of the enemy dared not venture out of port.—There were many, however, who held a very different opinion of the general effects of this firſt naval conteſt; and who ſtrenuouſly maintained, that one of thoſe happy opportunities had been permitted to eſcape, which, when ſeized with promptitude and vigour, frequently decide, at one firm, compacted ſtroke, the fate of wars and empires.

The unhappy conſequences of the American war had, by this time, affected Ireland in a very alarming manner. Her immediate loſſes, indeed, conſidered merely as a ſpecific ſum in point of calculation, could certainly hold no compariſon with thoſe ſuſtained by England; yet the leſſer loſs was more ſeverely felt by the poorer country, than the greater had hitherto been by that which ſo much exceeded it in commercial capital. Other cauſes, however, and which proceeded directly from the American war, concurred in accumulating the diſtreſſes of Ireland; beſides the ancient reſtraints upon her commerce, an embargo had been continued from the year 1776: thus her great ſtaple commodities of beef and butter were ſhut up and periſhing in their warehouſes, at the very time their great,—their only free,—and, conſequently, only valuable manufacture, that of linen, was greatly contracted by the American troubles.

Although nothing could be more diſtreſſing to the Iriſh than this embargo, yet it was very far from anſwering the purpoſe for which it was impoſed: for it neither appeared at that time, nor has it ſince been proved, that the French armaments were laid by, or even deferred, from

A. D. 1779 the want of Iriſh proviſions; and their Weſt India iſlands were ſo far from being ruined on that account, that they were well known to have been ſupplied with many articles upon as good terms as our own.

But this was not all:—The Iriſh beheld, with grief and diſmay, that the northern parts of Germany, and other countries adjoining to the Baltic, were, with great avidity, preparing to graſp at that beneficial trade, which was ſlipping out of their hands. They had already begun the experiment, were ſparing no induſtry or expence in procuring proper ſalt for the purpoſe, and proper perſons for inſtructing them in the art of curing and packing their beef, and had even ſent ſome conſiderable quantities of it to the French market. Although theſe ſamples did not approach to any degree of competition with the Iriſh beef, in point of goodneſs, nevertheleſs, the very attempt was a natural ſubject of alarm. The vaſt profits which the ſupply would afford, from the lowneſs of rents, and the cheapneſs of cattle in thoſe countries, would occaſion great improvements both in the articles of feeding and curing: and it is a commercial maxim as univerſally known as experimentally eſtabliſhed, that a branch of trade once loſt, or even transferred, is rarely to be recovered. To render all theſe circumſtances of loſs and alarm the more mortifying, it was generally ſaid, and from the authority of thoſe who firſt made the declaration, univerſally believed, that the ſource of theſe miſchiefs was neither more or leſs than a job; which owed its origin, or, at leaſt, its continuance, to miniſterial favour, and a partiality to particular contracts.

But other circumſtances, beſides the ſhackles on her trade, combined to augment the diſtreſs of this country:—The rent of lands in Ireland, within the laſt thirty years, had been very much encreaſed: but though this riſe in the rents muſt have been generally ſupported by the prices given in thoſe markets which took off the produce of the lands, yet it appeared, too evidently, that competition, and a ſpirit of ſpeculation, had their ſhare in the riſe, and when they fell, a very general failure of credit accompanied them.

Under theſe circumſtances, numbers of the labouring and manufacturing part of the community found themſelves without employment, and, conſequently, deſtitute of the neceſſaries of life. Though great and numerous acts of private charity, aided by the liberalities of public ſubſcription, did, in ſome meaſure, alleviate this alarming calamity, and though 20,000 poor were continually fed, for a conſiderable time, in the city of Dublin only, yet theſe efforts could produce only a partial remedy, and it was very evident, that employment alone could give certainty to that ſubſiſtence which their daily labour had hitherto provided for them.

It is alſo more than probable, that a portion of this diſtreſs might have ariſen from that fluctuation of commerce which happens frequently in the beſt of times: but be that as it may, the ſituation of that kingdom forced itſelf on the attention of many perſons of conſideration in this: ſo important and preſſing a ſubject had therefore been, in ſome degree, brought forward in the Houſe of Commons previous to the receſs during the Chriſtmas holidays. On that occaſion, the diſtreſſes of the Iriſh people were diſplayed in the ſtrongeſt colours, and it had been very powerfully urged, that it was abſolutely neceſſary to the welfare of Great Britain, to afford a ſpeedy and eſſential relief to Ireland, which, it was aſſerted, could alone be done, to any effect, by removing thoſe impolitic reſtrictions on their trade, which owed their riſe merely to the narrow ſpirit of monopoly, operating upon miſtaken notions of all true commercial principles; theſe reſtrictions being, in reality, as contrary to the real intereſts of this country, as they were hoſtile to the proſperity of the ſiſter kingdom. Notice was therefore given, that a bill would be propoſed for granting commercial relief to Ireland.

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1779 Accordingly, the firſt propoſitions held out in favour of that country, although not ſpecifically applied or moved for, went to the granting her a general exportation in all matters, except her woollens; the eſtabliſhment of a cotton manufactory under that right, and a liberty of trading to and from America, the Weſt Indies, and the coaſt of Africa. But theſe were oppoſed, on the idea of their being too general and extenſive, as well as too alarming to the manufacturers here, and were, by degrees, narrowed in ſuch a manner, until the ſupporters of them entered into a kind of compromiſe, to give up the general outline of relief, and to confine themſelves to ſome particular and ſpecific propoſition. It was accordingly moved, that the Houſe ſhould, on a given day, reſolve itſelf into a committee, to take into conſideration the acts of Parliament relating to the importation of ſugars from the Weſt Indies into Ireland.

The declared object of this motion was to repeal that clauſe in the act of navigation, by which all ſhips laden with ſugars were compelled to bring their cargoes directly to England, from whence the quantity neceſſary for the conſumption of Ireland was afterwards to be re-exported to it. This queſtion was fairly and coolly debated on both ſides, without any appearance of warmth, but ſuch as naturally aroſe from the locality of repreſentation; and was, at length, carried only by a majority of five votes.

In the mean time, the clamour without doors, and the oppoſition from the manufacturing diſtricts, was much leſs violent than they had been in the preceding ſeſſion.—Glaſgow and Mancheſter, however had petitioned; and the miniſter ſuddenly veering from the neutral ſtate he had hitherto kept in the buſineſs, the propoſed relief was rejected on the 18th of March, by a majority of one vote more than that which had advanced it to the firſt ſtage of parliamentary exiſtence.

As the affairs of Ireland will compoſe, in future, a very intereſting and important part of this work, we ſhall prepare the way to a right underſtanding of them, by bringing into one point of view the principal arguments that were urged at the different periods in which this buſineſs was agitated, whether in ſupport of, or in oppoſition to the propoſed meaſure.

It was contended, that leaving all ideas of liberality, or even juſtice out of the queſtion, we were impelled, by a neceſſary regard to our own preſent ſecurity and future preſervation, to cheriſh and maintain the remaining parts of the empire, and to concentrate the whole body of the people in one common bond of union, which could be produced by no other means than by a general communication of intereſts, and participation of benefits.—That the people of Ireland expected, and had an undoubted right to demand relief:—That this was no time, after the heavy loſs of the colonies and of our American commerce, to hazard that of our ſiſter kingdom, whether by invaſion or ſeparation, one of which was already threatened, and the other by no means an object of idle apprehenſion, if the expected relief was not afforded to it. But even ſuppoſing that the loyalty and patience of Ireland ſhould be invincible, and that neither a conqueſt or ſeparation ſhould take place, though we ſhould continue to poſſeſs the ſoil of that kingdom, we ſhould loſe the inhabitants; who, as ſoon as a peace took place, if our oppreſſion continued, would emigrate in great numbers to America, and carry their arts, manufactures, and induſtry along with them.—It was aſſerted that the American armies had been numerouſly recruited by the unhappy emigrants from Ireland; who, being driven from their country by want, were compelled by the ſame neceſſity to take up arms in a quarrel in which they had no intereſt, and to ſhed their blood in a conteſt with their friends and brethren.

The Iriſh were alſo ſtated as the beſt cuſtomers in many articles of Britiſh merchandize and manufactures; that we long derived the advantages of wealth and power from them, which would be proportionably increaſed under a wiſe and liberal ſyſtem of government; and that every commercial benefit we granted to them, would return, with accumulated intereſt, to ourſelves.

From the papers produced to juſtify theſe, and ſimilar aſſertions, it appeared, that the exports from England to Ireland, on an average of ten years, amounted to 2,057,000l. yearly; and that the exports from Ireland to England, on a ſimilar calculation, did not exceed 1,353,000l. per annum; conſequently, the balance in favour of England, during that period, exceeded 7,000,000l. ſterling; excluſive of which were to be conſidered the immenſe ſums drawn from Ireland in rents to abſentees, penſions, the emoluments of places held by Engliſhmen, expences on appeals in law and equity, as well as thoſe of buſineſs and of pleaſure.

It alſo appeared, that the decreaſe of exports from England to Ireland, during the laſt two years, amounted, on an average, to no leſs a ſum than 716,000l. per annum; from whence it was reaſonably foretold, how great the loſs would be to the revenue, as well as to the trade and manufactures of this country, if the diſtreſſes of Ireland were ſuffered to accumulate.—It was very naturally aſked, whether ſuch a country, with ſuch benefits as we derived from it, was to be committed to any hazard, or to be rendered a conſtituent part of our body politic, of our common ſtock of wealth, ſtrength, and defence? and whether a kingdom ſhould be ſacrificed to a ſingle town, to the monopoly of a particular diſtrict, or to the ill-judged clamours and idle prejudices of any body of manufacturers whatever?—The experience of delay in ſatisfying America was ſtrongly urged, and the good fruit of an early gratification of the wiſhes of Ireland forcibly ſtated and recommended.

On the other hand, the diſtreſſes of Ireland were ſaid to be greatly overcharged: but that, even if the melancholy deſcription were ſtrictly true, the grievances complained of were not to be attributed ſo much to the trade laws here, as to the mal-adminiſtration there,—to faults in the internal conſtitution of their government, and to general miſmanagement in the conduct of their affairs.—Theſe were matters which ſhould be firſt enquired into and redreſſed; and without ſuch a preliminary meaſure, no ſubſtantial relief could be afforded. It was ſaid, that the unhappy conſequences of the American war were equally felt in both countries; that Ireland bore no more than her ſhare in the common calamity; and that if her people were without bread, our own manufacturers were alſo without that employment which could procure it. That in this ſtate of common diſtreſs, however our feelings might be affected with reſpect to our Iriſh brethren, our ſympathy was more naturally attracted by thoſe ſufferings which were immediately within our knowledge; and, that however alarming a rebellion in Ireland might be, it could not be a matter of ſuch ſerious apprehenſion as a rebellion at home; an event which was equally probable, if any addition was made to the ſufferings which our manufacturers already endured, by a ſurrender of thoſe advantages in trade which they conſidered as their birth-right.

This buſineſs was however taken up in the Houſe of Lords, but paſſed off, on government undertaking to prepare a proper plan for accomodating the affairs of Ireland, and to have it ready to lay before Parliament early in the enſuing ſeſſion: ſome laws, however, relating to Ireland had been paſſed in this, the heads of which will be found in the commercial acts of this year.

A. D. 1779 That it was neceſſary to aſſiſt Ireland, in point of mere commercial policy, was as clear as evidence could make it.—But the ſpirit of the people of that kingdom was beginning to arouſe from its dormant ſtate, to demand that as a right, which we had delayed to grant as a favour. The example of America was before them, and they ſhewed a diſpoſition to follow it; for, excluſive of ſome very ſerious riots which happened in this year, we have the following articles to confirm our relation.

At an aſſembly held at the Tholſel of the city of Dublin, on the 16th of April, 1779, the following reſolutions were agreed to:—

"Reſolved,—That the unjuſt, illiberal, and impolitic oppoſition given by many ſelf-intereſted people of Great Britain to the propoſed encouragement of the trade and commerce of this kingdom, originated in avarice and ingratitude.

"Reſolved,—That we will not, directly or indirectly, import or uſe any goods or wares, the produce or manufacture of Great Britain, which can be produced or manufactured in this kingdom, till an enlightened policy, founded on principles of juſtice, ſhall appear to actuate the inhabitants of certain manufacturing towns of Great Britain, who have taken ſo active a part in oppoſing the regulations propoſed in favour of the trade of Ireland; and that they appear to entertain ſentiments of reſpect and affection for their fellow-ſubjects of this kingdom."

At the ſummer aſſizes for the county and city of Waterford, the high ſheriff, grand juries, and principal inhabitants met, for the purpoſe of taking into conſideration the preſent ruinous ſtate of the trade and manufactures, and the alarming decline in the value of the ſtaple commodities of that kingdom; and looking upon it as an indiſpenſable duty that they owed to their country and themſelves, to reſtrain, by every means in their power, theſe growing evils, they came to, and ſigned the following reſolutions:—

"Reſolved,—That we, our families, and all whom we can influence, ſhall, from this day, wear and make uſe of the manufactures of this country, and this country only, until ſuch time as all partial reſtrictions on our trade, impoſed by the illiberal and contracted policy of our ſiſter kingdom, be removed: but if, in conſequence of this our reſolution, the manufacturers (whoſe intereſt we have more immediately under conſideration) ſhould act fraudulently, or combine to impoſe upon the public, we ſhall hold ourſelves no longer bound to countenance and ſupport them.

"Reſolved,—That we will not deal with any merchant or ſhopkeeper who ſhall, at any time hereafter, be detected in impoſing any foreign manufacture as the manufacture of this country."

On the 16th of April, Admiral Pigot brought forward, in the Houſe of Commons, the ſubject of his brother, Lord Pigot's depoſition, impriſonment, and death; and concluded it with a motion, which met with the higheſt approbation of the Houſe, for an addreſs to his Majeſty to direct his attorney-general to proſecute George Stratton, Henry Brooke, Charles Floyer, and George Mackay, Eſqrs. for ordering their governor and commander in chief, Lord Pigot, to be arreſted and confined under a military force, &c.—Thoſe perſons were afterwards tried, and found guilty. Lord Pigot was a faithful ſervant of the Eaſt India Company: to execute the commiſſion with which he had been entruſted, was his determined reſolution; and if his zeal impelled him to what has the appearance of violent proceeding, he ſeems, in a great degree, to be juſtified by the circumſtances about him: and that particular act of ſuſpending members of the council, which was the chief article of accuſation againſt him, was the firſt act of his accuſers themſelves, when they entered upon the adminiſtration of that power

from

A. D. 1779 from which they had depoſed their governor.—He certainly poſſeſſed the moſt incorruptible integrity; as, in a country where corruption ſeemed to poſſeſs a licence, he refuſed a bribe, amounting in value to 600,000l. ſterling, merely to delay, but for a ſhort time, the reinſtatement of the Rajah of Tanjour.

But leaving, for a while, theſe internal diſputes and diſſentions, let us now turn our eyes to an object of greater magnitude,—to a more extended field of action; where partial evil ſeems to ſink under the weightier preſſure of general calamity, and a combination of power that appeared irreſiſtible.

France had been, for ſome time, diligently and artfully employed in procuring the acceſſion of Spain to the cauſe which ſhe had eſpouſed. That ambitious power was convinced, notwithſtanding the hopes ſhe had conceived from her great preparations, that they were not adequate to the deſign ſhe had formed of compelling Great Britain to ſubmit to the terms ſhe had arranged, in conjunction with the United States of America. She was ſenſible of the danger which threatened her commerce, and was alarmed for the reſources of her marine power.—In the courſe of another year, ſhe had every reaſon to apprehend that the fleets and privateers of Great Britain, were they to continue their career, would reduce her to ſuch diſtreſs, as entirely to diſable her from proſecuting the grand object of her wiſhes.

In this critical ſituation, ſhe reminded the court of Spain of the ſolemn engagements of the Family Compact: ſhe repreſented, in the ſtrongeſt manner, that if the French branch of the line of Bourbon were to be humbled by Great Britain, that the Spaniſh branch muſt inevitably partake of its humiliation, and they would be both degraded a ſecond time in the eyes of all Europe.

The ſolicitations of the French court were, however, for a certain period, unſucceſsful:—Spain did not, at that time, think it her intereſt to co-operate in the diſmemberment of the Britiſh empire; and ſhe was rather diſpoſed to look forward to future contingencies, than to conſult the apparent intereſt of the preſent moment. The precedent of a ſucceſsful rebellion in any colonies, was conſidered, and with great reaſon, by the Spaniſh court, as too dangerous to be encouraged and aſſiſted in the manner propoſed by France. The American poſſeſſions of Spain were, in many reſpects ſimilar to thoſe of Great Britain in that quarter of the globe, and the example of Britiſh America might excite diſcontents and commotions in the Spaniſh colonies, where it was well known turbulent ſpirits were not wanting to foment them. It was certainly the true policy of Spain to reſiſt the inſinuating propoſitions of France; and, for a time, ſhe did reſiſt them: at length, however, the French ſolicitations at Madrid became more ſucceſsful; and the Spaniſh monarch was prevailed upon to make an offer of his mediation between France, North America, and Great Britain.

His Catholic Majeſty acted upon this occaſion with great foreſight and circumſpection.—He waited till the military and naval forces that had been employed in the late quarrel between Spain and Portugal were returned from Brazil; and till the rich fleets from Mexico and Peru were ſafely arrived in the harbours of Spain. As ſoon as theſe were ſecured, he aſſumed the character of mediator between the powers at war. Great Britain acceded to this attempt towards a pacification; and the terms propoſed by the Spaniſh monarch were to the following purport:—

"That all parties ſhould diſarm immediately, and agree to an univerſal ceſſation of hoſtilities in all parts of the world; that they ſhould remain in poſſeſſion of the places and territories they occupied at the time this ſuſpenſion took place; that a meeting ſhould be appointed, where

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1779 where the miniſters of France and Great Britain ſhould ſettle their reſpective differences; that France ſhould not interfere in the ſettlement of the diſpute between Great Britain and the ſtates of America, which ſhould be left entirely to the deciſion of Spain; that, in the mean time, the American ſtates ſhould be treated with on a footing of independence; and, that in caſe an accommodation was not effected, hoſtilities ſhould not recommence till twelve months notice had been given of ſuch an intention."

Such were the propoſitions held out to the belligerent powers; and Great Britain did not heſitate, on her part, to refuſe a mediation founded on principles ſo inimical to her intereſts and glory.

On this declaration, Spain immediately determined to aſſociate herſelf with France and America againſt Great Britain. This reſolution was taken ſo abruptly, on receiving the denial of the Britiſh court to coincide with the meaſures propoſed, that it became as evident as the appearance of things could make it, that the mediation which had been propoſed, was not founded on a ſufficient baſis of impartiality to render it worthy of confidence.

On the 16th of June, the Spaniſh ambaſſador declared the intentions of his ſovereign to the court of London.—The reſcript which he delivered on the occaſion, was a looſe, deſultory compoſition, conſiſting entirely of vague accuſations and general aſſertions, without any arguments to enforce the one or ſupport the other. The circumſtances which it ſtated, carried no weight or conviction; and could not, by any ſophiſtry, have been cloathed with the ſemblance of juſtifiable cauſes for ſuch a ſerious and violent meaſure as a rupture between the two nations.

It ſet forth,—That the King of Spain had uſed his utmoſt endeavours to bring about a reconciliation between Great Britain and the powers with which ſhe was at war, but that they had been rejected in a manner that manifeſted an hoſtile diſpoſition in that court.

It repreſented the conduct of the Britiſh miniſtry, reſpecting the mediation it had accepted on the part of Spain, as diſingenuous, and tending only to protract it, by vain pretences and evaſive anſwers.

It complained of inſults offered to the Spaniſh flag, and outrages on the territory of Spain in America; for which reparation had been demanded, and never received.

It alſo contained one charge of a nature not to be paralelled in all the proceedings of the corps diplomatique; in which was ſpecified, in one line, that the number of inſults and injuries which Spain had received from Great Britain, amounted to juſt *one hundred!*

The complaints contained in this reſcript were anſwered in a very forcible and circumſtantial manner, by a paper which was tranſmitted to the Spaniſh ambaſſador after his departure, to the following effect:—

" As nothing could be more diſtant from the King's intention than to break the friendſhip ſubſiſting between Great Britain and Spain, it is by order of his Majeſty that ſuch a ſtate of the matters ſet forth in the Spaniſh declaration is offered, as he doubts not muſt ſhew the ſincerity with which his Majeſty has endeavoured to maintain the general tranquillity.

" The little deſire of peace, as ſuppoſed on the part of the King, is deduced from the conduct attributed to Great Britain during the laſt negociation:—After the profeſſions of the impartiality of his Catholic Majeſty, his offers of mediation between Great Britain and France, and after the acceptation of the ſame, the declaration affirms—' That every ſtep had been taken neceſſary to produce the beſt effects, in order to prepare the two powers towards an accommodation equally honourable to both parties: that, to this end, wiſe expedients had ' been

A. D. 1779 been propoſed; but notwithſtanding theſe terms were conformable to ſuch as the court of London, at other times, judged proper and conducive to an accommodation, they were however rejected in a manner, that too well proves the reluctance, on the part of the Britiſh cabinet, to reſtore peace to Europe, and to preſerve the friendſhip of his Catholic Majeſty.'

" The conditions offered by France were, to the higheſt degree, injurious and inadmiſſible; the King expreſsly declared, that he conſidered them as ſuch; and nothing can be more evident, than that the expedients offered by Spain inevitably tended to enforce theſe very injurious conditions, but juſt before declared as inadmiſſible.

" The pernicious conſequences of the propoſed expedients had been explained to the court of Spain, by order of the King, which were, in the moſt amicable manner, expreſsly rejected. Had it been otherwiſe, there could be no reaſon for an ultimatum: yet it is not, without aſtoniſhment, that, after the firſt anſwer, the King received the ultimatum from the court of Spain, not only containing the very ſame offers thus rejected, but announced with ſcarce any difference in point of form. The declaration further ſays, ' That, on the 28th of September, the court of Spain had notified to the belligerent powers, that in caſe the negociation did not ſucceed, ſhe would then determine how to act.' If the open part the court of Spain now takes, be that ſhe ſecretly intended, at that time, it would have been more conſiſtent with her dignity to have avowed it then, and to have ranged herſelf openly under the banners of France.

" Inſtead of ſuch a conduct, the court of Madrid, affecting impartiality, hath offered to mediate, but not to dictate the terms of peace, promiſing to communicate to each court the conditions claimed by either, that ſo they might be modified, explained, or rejected. When the propoſals made by France were rejected, and the declaration made to Spain to ceaſe her mediation, ſince her endeavours did not ſucceed, it was accompanied with aſſurances, that the friendſhip ſubſiſting between the two nations ſhould not be interrupted.

" How far this is true, appears from the actual declaration announcing hoſtilities on the part of Spain; without venturing to ſtate the non-acceptance of the terms as one of the cauſes of the war; but ſhould it be otherwiſe inſinuated, it will furniſh his Majeſty with an additional reaſon to complain of the injuſtice and arrogance of ſuch a pretenſion.

" The previous cauſes which the court of Spain hath thought proper to urge, are, the inſults againſt her flag, and the violation of her territory. As to the firſt, theſe are the terms of her memorial. ' Prizes have been made; veſſels have been ſearched and plundered; many have been fired upon who were forced to defend themſelves; the regiſters and packets belonging to the court, and found on board his Catholic Majeſty's packet boats, have been opened and torn to pieces.'

" American veſſels of every kind have been received into the ports of Spain: they have been furniſhed with falſe documents, and ſuffered to carry Spaniſh colours; their privateers have plundered all nations without diſtinction, and ſuch has been the induſtry of the Spaniſh miniſtry, in order to enhance the number of grievances, that theſe depredations were repreſented by them as injuries committed by Great Britain. Theſe complaints ſeldom ſpecified the author of the ſuppoſed inſult; thoſe which did, were frequently ill-founded, and in general frivolous; however, it is granted, that the anſwers were friendly. The King thought it worthy of himſelf not only to uſe every precaution neceſſary to prevent diſorders which might offend neutral powers, but alſo to exert every effort to puniſh the authors and repair the loſs of the ſufferers. Such has been his conduct at all times, when poſſible to diſcover and convict the guilty.

1779 Among the vaſt operations of the preſent war, ſome irregularities may have happened, but when ſuch caſes were proved, reſtitution was made with ample damages and all charges paid.

"It has been advanced, 'That his Catholic Majeſty formally declared to the court of London, ever ſince France commenced hoſtilities, that the court of Madrid would regulate her conduct by that of the court of Great Britain;' nevertheleſs, thirteen Engliſh veſſels have been ſeized, on what pretence, or by whoſe order, we are ſtill to learn, although his Majeſty ordered ſuch repreſentations to be made as are uſual on the like occaſions, between nations in a ſtate of amity; which his Majeſty did,—not attributing theſe ſeizures to a perfidious and inimical deſign, until the conduct of the court of Spain was better explained by the preſent declaration.

"The pretended violation of the Spaniſh territory may be reduced to four heads:

"Firſt, That the dominions in America belonging to the court of Spain have been threatened, without ſpecifying time, place, or circumſtance.

"Secondly, The memorial mentions, 'That the Indians have been ſet againſt the innocent inhabitants of Louiſiana, who muſt have fallen victims to their fury, had not even the Chictaws repented and revealed the conſpiracy.' It is well known, that the governor of New Orleans tried to reduce the Chictaws, and that he received, with open arms, thoſe tribes, which committed devaſtations in the Engliſh Weſtern ſettlements. Theſe tribes returned, but were not ſet againſt the Spaniſh territory; it was never attempted, nor was ſuch an idea ever entertained.

"The declaration aſſerts, 'That a formal repreſentation was made to the court of London concerning theſe different grievances; and ſeeing the equivocal expreſſions on the two preceding points, ſuch remonſtrances were particularly neceſſary towards the ſtrict obſervance of the good faith between two nations at peace.' It is not true, that the leaſt repreſentation was ever made on either of the two preceding articles; to which the moſt ample and ſatisfactory anſwers might have been given.

"Thirdly, They pretend, 'That the ſovereignty of his Catholic Majeſty, in the province of Darien, and on the coaſt of Saint Blas, hath been uſurped; the government of Jamaica having appointed an Indian to the rank of General over thoſe provinces.' On this ſubject, inſtructions were diſpatched, bearing date the 28th of April laſt, as is uſual between nations in friendſhip; no advices being received from Jamaica on this matter, freſh orders were ſent for a full explanation; but, in point of time, no anſwer could yet be expected.

"Fourthly, 'That the territory in the Bay of Honduras has been uſurped, acts of hoſtility committed, the Spaniards impriſoned and their houſes plundered; as alſo that England had neglected to fulfil the ſtipulated article relative to this coaſt, agreeable to the ſeventeenth article of the treaty of Paris.' With regard to the Engliſh ſubjects frequenting the Bay of Honduras, that matter had been regulated according to the aforeſaid article, and finally adjuſted with the court of Spain in the year 1764; ſince which period no complaint having been made on either ſide, this court is ſtill ignorant whether the leaſt cauſe ever exiſted. This, ſurely, cannot be included among the pretended grievances which the declaration ſuppoſes, as having been duly repreſented either to the Engliſh court, or to her ambaſſador at the court of Madrid.

"Such are the motives alleged by the court of Spain as a juſtification, before God and the world, for commencing hoſtilities againſt Great Britain. The King appeals to the actual ſtate of affairs, being the ſame as that which ſubſiſted ſince the concluſion of the laſt treaty, as a full proof that no attempt was ever made, on his part, to infringe this treaty. He appeals to

A. D. 1779 his uniform conduct ever ſince this epoch, to furniſh ſtill ſtronger proofs that he hath endeavoured to preſerve the ſame, with all the aſſiduity and care which the intereſts of humanity and the happineſs of his ſubjects required. Ultimately, he appeals to the conduct of his enemies, and in particular to the declaration of the court of Spain, as the laſt proof of the neceſſity he is under to defend the rights of his crown and people, againſt a determined project to invade the ſame; a project wherein the court of Spain at length openly joins, without the leaſt reaſon to colour ſuch a proceeding."

Hence it appears, that whatever pretences might be alleged by Spain, for breaking the peace with England, it was very evident, that the real motive was to embrace the favourable opportunity of depreſſing Great Britain which was now offered, by the defection of its colonies. This could not be otherwiſe than the general opinion,—though government did not eſcape the acrimony of the oppoſition party, when the miniſters delivered the royal meſſage, which accompanied the Spaniſh manifeſto, to Parliament: both houſes concurred firmly and unanimouſly in the reſolution to ſupport, with the utmoſt ſpirit and vigour, the war denounced againſt this country by the Houſe of Bourbon.

This was, without doubt, a very alarming and critical period. But the ſpirit and magnanimity that were diſplayed at this time of danger, fully anſwered the prognoſtications of thoſe politicians, both at home and abroad, who had confidently predicted that the combination formed againſt Britain, would only ſerve to diſcover the amazing reſources ſhe poſſeſſed, and to make it evident, that the hopes of its enemies were founded on their ignorance of the real ſituation of this country, and the diſpoſition of its people; of the greatneſs of its intrinſic wealth, and the readineſs to employ it with the moſt boundleſs generoſity for the common defence.

Animated with this laudable ſpirit, all parts of the kingdom exhibited ſuch an ardent zeal to forward every meaſure neceſſary for the protection of the realm, as baniſhed alarm and deſpondency. People of rank and affluence acted every where with a patriot liberality, which proved that the wealth of the country was ready to aſſiſt the exigencies of it, and every poſſible preparation was made to meet the utmoſt efforts of the enemy. In an attempt to ſeize the iſland of Jerſey, a body of French troops, under the command of Prince Naſſau, had already been repulſed in a manner that did infinite honour to the handful of Britiſh ſoldiers who were on duty there, as well as to the officers who commanded them.

About this time, however, the ſituation of our Weſt India iſlands became very critical.—Soon after the capture of the iſland of St. Lucia, Admiral Byron arrived with his ſquadron in the Weſt Indies, and joining Admiral Barrington, cauſed a very conſiderable alarm among the French iſlands. This fleet ſailed immediately to Martinico, to provoke Count D'Eſtaing to come forth and engage them; but, even after he had been ſtrengthened by the arrival of conſiderable reinforcements from France, he remained immoveable in the harbour of Port Royal. His conduct was influenced by very proper motives; he knew that the convoys neceſſary for the homeward bound trade from the Britiſh Weſt India iſlands would diminiſh the ſtrength of the Britiſh fleet, and give him an opportunity of attacking it with advantage.

A very numerous and valuable fleet of merchantmen having aſſembled, about the middle of June, at St. Chriſtopher's, Admiral Byron determined to convoy them with his whole ſquadron, a conſiderable part of their voyage. Indeed, no ſeparation of it could have been riſqued with any proſpect of ſafety; as we had no port in thoſe iſlands, of ſufficient ſtrength to have afforded protection to the remaining diviſion of the fleet, againſt the great ſuperiority of land as well as of naval force which Monſ. D'Eſtaing commanded: beſides, the French commander

1779 had in his choice to purſue the convoy, and if he even failed of overtaking it, he could ſcarcely have miſſed of intercepting the ſquadron, on its return, which had been ſent to protect it. The meaſure of affording a ſtrong ſafeguard to the trade was, alſo, the more indiſpenſable, as it was known that M. de la Motte Piquet was then on his way from France with a conſiderable reinforcement to D'Eſtaing; and no common or ordinary convoy would have been ſufficient for the protection of the trade, in caſe of its falling in with his ſquadron.

This meaſure of Admiral Byron, appears to have been the beſt that could be adopted in his difficult and critical ſituation; nevertheleſs, the firſt conſequence of his departure was the loſs of the iſland of St. Vincent. For no ſooner was the Britiſh fleet ſailed, than Monſ. D'Eſtaing diſpatched a body of troops to attack that iſland, which being joined by great numbers of the native Charibs, the combined ſtrength of theſe foreign and domeſtic enemies was too great to be withſtood by an inconſiderable and ill ſupplied garriſon. Governor Morris did all that an active, zealous and brave officer could do on the occaſion. He had long and repeatedly remonſtrated to government on the expoſed and ill-provided ſtate of the iſland, without being favoured with any attention from home, for when it was attacked he had not 230 men to defend it, beſides the maintenance of twenty poſts, nor ammunition, &c. ſufficient for an hour's defence: beſides, the very inhabitants were many of them luke warm in his ſupport, and ſome of them friendly to the enemy. He, however, to his honour, obtained a capitulation as favourable as the moſt ample means of defence could have qualified him to demand.

The capitulation of St. Vincent's took place on the 18th of June in this year, and in the following month, the iſland of Grenada ſurrendered to the French arms under the command of the Count D'Eſtaing, but without any capitulation; as the terms the French commander in chief demanded were of ſuch an extraordinary nature, that Lord Macartney, the Britiſh governor, and principal inhabitants thought it better to truſt to the law and cuſtoms of nations, to the juſtice of one court and the interpoſition of the other, by ſurrendering at diſcretion, than to bind themſelves to ſuch unprecedented conditions.

But while the Britiſh empire was thus threatened by foreign enemies, it had no ſmall reaſon to be alarmed by internal diſſatisfaction and diſcontent. In Ireland, affairs ſeemed to be approaching faſt to a criſis: it was not, indeed, to be expected, that a country dependent on Great Britain, and much limited in the uſe of its natural advantages, ſhould not be affected by the cauſes and conſequences of the American war. Perſons of underſtanding in that kingdom could not but perceive, in the preſent combination of circumſtances, an advantage which was now to be improved or abandoned for ever. A new ſtate of public and private diſtreſs, together with a ſtrong ſenſe of recent inſults, as they were now conſidered, were the principal agents which produced this revolution in the temper and diſpoſition of the people of Ireland. The reſtrictions on the commerce and manufactures of Ireland might have been paſſed over for ſome ages to come, with, perhaps, even leſs difficulty than they had been endured for near a century paſt, if temporary diſtreſs had not quickened the apprehenſions of the people of that kingdom.

Of all the evils of which they complained, the three years embargo on the only ſtaple export of that kingdom ſeemed pregnant with the greateſt miſchief, and being conſidered, from the conceſſions granted to America, as particularly inſulting, was accordingly the moſt immediately reſented by the people. One of the public writers of that country declared, “that it was ſent as a curſe, and operated as a peſtilence.” It was likewiſe, along with its pernicious tendency and effects, charged with being not only unconſtitutional, but abſolutely illegal

A. D. 1779 But what aggravated every circumſtance relative to this buſineſs to the higheſt poſſible degree, was the national contempt which it was ſuppoſed to convey: for, as it was declared without reſerve, both in Parliament and out of it, to be a government job, it was natural that the indignation of the whole people would be called forth; and when it was repreſented to them, by thoſe whoſe opinions were held in the higheſt eſtimation, that they were reduced to the diſtreſs they ſuffered, in order to enrich the body of Britiſh contractors.

Some other real or ſuppoſed matters of irritation or cauſes of jealouſy, as they excited ſuſpicion or apprehenſion, ſerved alſo to render the ſenſe of immediate grievance or diſtreſs ſtill more inſupportable in that country. Some very ſtrong and unprofitable language, uſed in the Britiſh Parliament, ſerved very much to increaſe this apprehenſion and jealouſy in drawing parallels between the conſtitution of Ireland and the Colonies, and deriving arguments for the ſubmiſſion of the latter from the reſtraints to which the former had been ſubject.

Still, however, the hopes of ſome conſiderable enlargement of their commerce, which was repeatedly held out in Parliament, operated, to a very extraordinary degree, in preſerving the temper and fortifying the patience of the people. But when they found that theſe declarations propoſed but very little benefit to them, and little as it was, that it met with no common oppoſition from many of the trading parts of Great Britain, the hopes of redreſs became daily more faint, while the acquieſcence and good temper founded upon them, were proportionably exhauſted. They could not but obſerve, that when a bill, which, though of no great conſequence, would have afforded ſome alleviation to their diſtreſſes, had been nearly carried through the Houſe of Commons, the miniſter himſelf, who they had been made to believe was their friend, ſtood forward to defeat it. The two bills which were afterwards paſſed in the ſame ſeſſion, for permitting the cultivation of tobacco, and encouraging that of hemp in Ireland, inſtead of affording ſatisfaction or promoting harmony, produced a directly contrary effect, being conſidered as nothing leſs than mockeries, and as inſults offered to their diſtreſs.

In this manner, things were repreſented and felt in Ireland; and when the attempt to keep Parliament ſitting, for the purpoſe of ſettling ſome plan for their ſatisfaction, was defeated, the flame which had been for ſome time ſmothered, broke out with conſiderable violence.

Aſſociations againſt the purchaſe and uſe of Britiſh manufactures, and for the encouragement, in every poſſible degree, of their own, had already taken place in ſome parts of that country; but ſeemed to be kept back, as a matter of conſideration, and a final reſort in caſe of extremity, by the greater part of the kingdom. All reſerve, however, upon this ſubject, was now at an end; aſſociations became univerſal; and the non-importation and non-conſumption agreements included the uſual penalties or denunciations of vengeance, not only againſt violators, but againſt thoſe impoſtors or ſellers of the prohibited commodities, who had not acceded to the general compact. By theſe means, it was computed, that even in the preſent weak ſtate of their manufactures, a million ſterling would be ſaved which went annually to Great Britain. This great ſaving, it was ſaid, would afford ſome compenſation or redreſs for many of their grievances and diſtreſſes; and would be the means of humbling the pride and puniſhing the ingratitude of the towns of Mancheſter and Glaſgow; which, though they had been conſtant and immenſe gainers in the Iriſh trade, had been the firſt and moſt effective in oppoſing and defeating every meaſure of redreſs or relief which had been propoſed in favour of Ireland.

But the turn of affairs and the future fortune of that kingdom were to depend on aſſociations of a very different nature, than any which related merely to commercial or domeſtic regula-

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1779 tions. To the accumulation of alarms had been lately added the danger of a foreign invaſion, which was the more alarming, as the military force ſupported by Ireland, had been continually drained off and weakened for the American war.

In order to provide for their defence, military aſſociations took place, and the ſpirit of them ſoon became univerſal throughout the kingdom. It was declared, that they were intended for the two-fold purpoſe of defending their country againſt foreign enemies and their rights againſt, what they thought, domeſtic uſurpation: that they were loyal to their King, and affectionate to Great Britain; but that it was with ſuch loyalty and affection as conſiſted with their own liberty and proſperity. Under the influence of this ſpirit, large bodies of citizens were ſeen to ariſe, who choſe their own officers, ſerved at their own charge, and ſubmitted to all the rigour of military diſcipline. Men of large fortune ſerved in the ranks; and all this was conducted without the leaſt confuſion or diſorder: On the contrary, the peace of the country and a due obedience to the laws was never more effectually maintained. When we reflect on the temper lately prevalent in that country, and its ſcenes of inteſtine diviſion, we cannot but conſider the ſtate of Ireland which we have juſt deſcribed, as one of the moſt extraordinary revolutions in the hiſtory of the world.

The numbers thus trained were upwards of 20,000 men in the firſt year of their aſſembling; they were afterwards conſiderably increaſed, and were admirably appointed as well as incomparably diſciplined. Government ſaw this proceeding with aſtoniſhment: it was in vain to offer the leaſt reſiſtance to the deſign of a general armament; nor could it be wiſhed to reſtrain the ſpirit ſo far as regarded a foreign enemy. Some attempts were quietly made to regulate this force and bring it to act under the authority of the crown; but, as they met with no kind of ſucceſs, it was thought a wiſe and neceſſary meaſure to ſanctify by approbation what could not be prevented by oppoſition.

The Iriſh, however, after having provided for their defence againſt foreign enemies, began to look forwards to a claim of their rights, and to an annihilation of all authority of the Britiſh Parliament over them. Among others, the Britiſh mutiny act was denied to poſſeſs any validity; and that opinion was ſo ſeriouſly maintained, that the troops were, for ſome time, in a great degree confined to their reſpective ſtations; as it was a matter of no common difficulty to perſuade any magiſtrate to iſſue billets for their quarters. It required the greateſt degree of temper and circumſpection in thoſe who governed in Ireland, and in the commanders of the King's forces there, to prevent the colliſion of the royal and democratic armies: and they deſerve the higheſt praiſe for the prudence of their conduct at ſuch an important and alarming criſis.

This ſtate of things was not the work of a party, or of any particular order of men; but was upheld by every rank, claſs and denomination of the people. The wiſe and humane conduct of the Britiſh legiſlature, in relaxing the penal reſtrictions of the laws againſt the Engliſh Roman Catholics, was a meaſure of ſuch obvious utility, that the example was ſpeedily followed by the Iriſh Parliament, who communicated ſimilar benefits to thoſe of that profeſſion in their own country. Theſe people who form ſo great a majority of the Iriſh nation, ſoon perceived, that as they now poſſeſſed a common ſhare in the common intereſts, ſo they were equally called upon to the public defence and the ſupport of the public rights; ſo that all former diſtruſt and apprehenſion of each other being laid aſide, one general ſpirit and principle appeared to operate upon the whole people.

A free,

A. D. 1779 A free, unlimited, and univerſal commerce was the firſt object of redreſs, for which it appeared, that no compenſation could be admitted, and without which, no other conceſſions or advantages, however great or beneficial, could afford ſatisfaction: and when the Iriſh Parliament met on the 12th of October, they declared in their addreſſes to the throne, that nothing leſs than a free and unlimited trade could ſave their country from ruin. But this was not all: the aſſociations and people at large, not, perhaps, poſſeſſing a perfect confidence in the ſteadineſs of their own Parliament, and ſuſpecting that they ſhould be amuſed by empty promiſes from Great Britain, were determined, if poſſible, to prevent the granting the ſupplies for the two following years, according to the accuſtomed mode; and, by procuring a ſhort money bill for ſix months only, to make the ſitting of Parliament eſſentially neceſſary to the exiſtence of government. To ſuch a meaſure, which was conſidered by many as an innovation on eſtabliſhed forms, and the violent endeavours employed to enforce it, as an invaſion of Parliamentary dignity, there appeared a very powerful oppoſition; but ſuch was the univerſal cry of the nation, that its repreſentatives found it neceſſary to ſubmit, and the ſhort money bill having paſſed on that ſide, the neceſſities of the period ſecured the ſanction of the Britiſh government, to that act of the Iriſh Parliament.

Such was the relative diſpoſition of the ſiſter kingdom, on the meeting of the Engliſh Parliament on the 25th of November, when his Majeſty, in his ſpeech from the throne, among other important matters, expreſſed himſelf with reſpect to Ireland in the following manner: "In the midſt of my care and ſolicitude for the ſafety and welfare of this country, I have not been inattentive to the ſtate of my loyal and faithful kingdom of Ireland. I have, in conſequence of your addreſſes, preſented to me in the laſt ſeſſion, ordered ſuch papers to be collected, and laid before you, as may aſſiſt your deliberations, on this important buſineſs; and I recommend it to you to conſider what further benefits and advantages may be extended to that kingdom, by ſuch regulations and ſuch methods, as may moſt effectually promote the common ſtrength, wealth, and intereſts of all my dominions."

The affairs of Ireland, therefore, naturally took the lead in this ſeſſion: Lord Shelburne had introduced an unſucceſsful motion of cenſure on the miniſters, in the Houſe of Lords, in ſupport of which he diſplayed all the eloquence he is known to poſſeſs, and that complete knowledge of his ſubject which he never fails to diſcover whenever that eloquence is exerted. Lord Oſſory alſo made a ſimilar motion, with ſimilar effect in the Houſe of Commons.—However, on the 13th of December, the miniſter opened his propoſitions for affording relief to Ireland. They were three in number, and went to the following articles. To the repeal of thoſe laws, which prohibit the exportation of Iriſh manufactures, made of or mixed with wool or wool flocks, from Ireland to any part of Europe. That ſo much of the act of the nineteenth of George II. as prohibits the importation of glaſs into Ireland, except of Britiſh manufacture, or to export glaſs from that kingdom, be repealed: and that Ireland be ſuffered to carry on a trade of export and import, to and from the Britiſh colonies in America and the Weſt Indies, and her ſettlements on the coaſt of Africa, ſubject to ſuch limitations, regulations, reſtrictions and duties, as the Parliament of Ireland ſhall impoſe.

The miniſter ſtated, with equal ability and knowledge of his ſubject, the propriety and juſtice, as well as the neceſſity of affording relief to Ireland, and entered fully into the claims of that country, as well with reſpect to her natural and inherent rights, as to thoſe ariſing from her particular connection with Great Britain. He alſo expatiated at large on the mutual and reſpective intereſts of both countries, and collected into one point of view all the queſtions of

1779 commerce and policy which related to them. In ſhort, the reſolutions were agreed to without any oppoſition. Bills, founded on the two firſt propoſitions, were accordingly brought in, paſſed both Houſes and received the royal aſſent before the Chriſtmas receſs. The third, being more complex in its nature, requiring a variety of enquiry, and being ſubject to ſeveral limitations and conditions, was ſuffered to lay over the holidays, in its preſent ſtate of an open propoſition; not only to afford time for conſideration here, but for acquiring a knowledge of the effect which the meaſure would produce in Ireland.

Several memorials having been preſented to the States General in the courſe of this year, by Sir Joſeph Yorke, the Britiſh ambaſſador at the Hague, we ſhall ſtate the contents and objects of them.

The following order of the French King's council, which was the object of the firſt memorial we ſhall give at large.

" The King having declared by his regulation of the 26th of July laſt, concerning the navigation of neutral veſſels, that he reſerved to himſelf the power of revoking the liberty granted by the firſt article, in caſe the belligerent powers ſhould not grant the ſame within the ſpace of ſix months; and his Majeſty, judging it proper to make known his intentions relative to the veſſels belonging to the ſubjects of the republic of the United Provinces of the Low Countries, has, in council, ordered and declared, as follows:"

" Article I. The republic of the United Provinces not having obtained of the court of London the liberty of navigation, equal to that which the King had conditionally promiſed to their flag, and which their treaties with England ſhould ſecure to them, his Majeſty revokes, with reſpect to the ſubjects of the ſaid republic, the advantages granted by the firſt article, concerning the commerce and navigation of neutral ſhips; and, in conſequence, declares it his pleaſure, that the veſſels of the ſaid republic ſhall proviſionally execute the firſt, ſecond, third, fourth and fifth articles of the regulation of the 21ſt of October, 1744."

" II. His Majeſty further declares, that from the date of the 26th of January, 1779, the veſſels belonging to the ſubjects of the ſaid republic, ſhall pay the duty on freightage, as is eſtabliſhed by the ordinances and regulations, and particularly by the declaration of the 24th of November, 1750; and the order of council of the 16th of July, 1757; his Majeſty reſerving to himſelf the power of laying, when he pleaſes, new duties on the commodities of the United Provinces, and the productions of their manufactures.

" III. His Majeſty, however, conſidering that the city of Amſterdam has made the moſt patriotic exertions to perſuade the republic to procure from the court of London, the ſecurity of that unlimited liberty which belongs to their flag, in conſequence of her independence and integrity of commerce, and which the rights of nations and treaties ſecure to her: and his Majeſty, deſirous of giving the ſaid city a ſtriking example of his benevolence, has reſerved to the ſhips freighted by the inhabitants of Amſterdam, the liberty promiſed by the firſt article of the regulation of the 26th of July laſt, concerning the navigation of neutral veſſels, as to the exemption of the duties of freightage; except ſuch veſſels as are employed in the French coaſting trade, which ſhall continue to be ſubject to the order of council of the 16th of July, 1757.—His Majeſty further reſerves to the inhabitants of the ſaid city the advantages granted to their own commodities, and the productions of their manufactures, conformably to what is at preſent practiſed.

" IV. To ſecure to the veſſels of Amſterdam, excluſively, the enjoyment of the advantages granted in the preceding article, his Majeſty declares, that the captains of the ſaid veſſels ſhall be

A. D. 1779 be ſupplied with a certificate from the Commiſſary of the Marine eſtabliſhed at Amſterdam, and an atteſtation of the magiſtrates of the ſaid city, aſſerting that the veſſels were actually freighted by the inhabitants of that city, and that they went directly from their port for the place to which they were bound.

" V. The ſaid captains ſhall be bound, on their return, to appear before the ſaid Commiſſary of the Marine, and to give ſufficient proof that he landed his cargo in no other port or harbour of the republic than that of Amſterdam. His Majeſty alſo enjoins the ſaid Commiſſary to refuſe, in future, any new certificate to thoſe, who ſhall not be provided with good proof of their integrity, or who ſhall be convicted of having landed their cargo in any other port or harbour of the republic. &c.

" Given in the King's Council, &c. at Verſailles, January 14, 1779."

From the memorial preſented to the States General by Sir Joſeph Yorke, in conſequence of this order of the French King, we ſhall ſelect the following paſſages.

" The King of Great Britain, from the friendſhip he has for your High Mightineſſes, &c. has hitherto foreborn interfering in the negotiation which has been carrying on, relative to the protection to be given to the tranſportation of all ſorts of naval ſtores during the war, which is actually carrying on between your High Mightineſſes and France; but the laſt proceedings of the French court forbid his keeping ſilence any longer; and his Majeſty would think he wronged the ancient leagues between his crown and your republic, if he did not inform them to what danger they would expoſe themſelves, by liſtening to propoſals which will oblige them to infringe a neutrality which they have ſo often declared they wiſhed to ſupport, and which at once attack their independence, ſap the baſis of their government, and threaten nothing leſs than their diſunion.

" Your High Mightineſſes are too well inſtructed, not to feel that a foreign power, who takes upon itſelf the right of granting particular favours to part of your government to the prejudice of the reſt, can have no other view than to ſow diſcord, and to break the ties which unite you; and that if other powers were to follow the ſame example, the republic would be torn to pieces by an internal combuſtion, and an univerſal anarchy would ſucceed.

" Thus far the intereſt only of your High Mightineſſes ſeems concerned; but when we perceive, that the end of all theſe intrigues is manifeſtly deſigned to cauſe the republic to quarrel with the King, and to bring on a war between your High Mightineſſes and Great Britain, under the ſeducing pretence of a perfect neutrality and the intereſt of trade, the King finds himſelf obliged to lay before you the danger into which France wiſhes to plunge you.

" What right has France to dictate to your High Mightineſſes the arrangements you ought to make with England? It can only be found in the ambitious views of that power, which has made a league with the rebels of America, and is now endeavouring to bring other States into it with them.

" What object can be more important or indiſpenſable, than that of depriving the enemy of any materials which may enable them to redouble their efforts during the war? and how can a protection of thoſe materials be reconciled to the alliances ſo often renewed between the two nations, or with the aſſurances of friendſhip which you are continually profeſſing to the King? To prevent future bad conſequences, and to aſſure the republic of the unequivocal friendſhip his Majeſty entertains for the republic, he renews the promiſes made to them to maintain the liberties of legal trade to their ſubjects, agreeable to the orders given to the King's ſhips and privateers, notwithſtanding the advantage which may reſult from it to the enemy; but his

1779 Majeſty cannot depart from the neceſſity he is under of excluding the tranſportation of naval ſtores to the ports of France, and particularly timber, even if they ſhould be eſcorted by men of war.

" The example which France has ſet, of favouring ſome members of the republic to the detriment of others, ſo directly contrary to the union and independence of your High Mightineſſes, the King hopes never to be obliged to follow, unleſs a condeſcenſion to the views of France, obliges him to take that method of making amends to thoſe members of the republic who are hurt by the partiality of his enemies.

" The laſt edict publiſhed by the court of France, which excepts the cities of Amſterdam and Haerlem from certain duties impoſed on the other members of the republic, to puniſh them for having made uſe of that ſovereign right which belongs to them, cannot but ſhew all Europe the motives which have engaged France to league with America, &c.

" (Signed,)

" Hague, April 9, 1779. " Joseph Yorke."

On the 23d of July, the French King publiſhed another ordinance, by which the whole province of Holland, as well as the cities of Amſterdam and Haerlem was exempted from the duties of freightage, and fifteen per cent. upon ſhips, &c. in the ports of France.

That an invaſion of ſome part of this kingdom was projected by France, in the ſummer of this year, and an attempt to execute that project expected by England, was not denied by the former, and was openly acknowledged by the latter. On the 9th of July, the King's proclamation was publiſhed, ordering all cattle, &c. to be driven from the ſea coaſt in caſe of invaſion: and on the 22d of the ſame month Sir Joſeph preſented a memorial to the States General, which declares that France was making every poſſible preparation to invade the Britiſh iſlands, and on that account, demands of the republic to fulfil its engagements with Great Britain, in affording the ſuccours ſtipulated in the treaties of 1678, and of which the *Caſus Fœderis* is fully explained in the ſeparate article of 1716. The States General, not paying any attention to this demand, the Britiſh miniſter at the Hague preſented, on the 26th of November, another memorial on the ſame ſubject, which was treated with ſimilar neglect.

In the mean time, Paul Jones, who commanded an American frigate and other veſſels in the Congreſs ſervice, took two Engliſh ſhips and carried them into the Texel. They were accordingly demanded to be given up by the Britiſh court, on the principle that Paul Jones was a pirate, and that, according to the cuſtom of admiralties, all the captains of foreign armed veſſels ſhall, upon their arrival, preſent their letters of marque or commiſſion, and that ſuch are to be treated as pirates whoſe letters are found to be illegal, for want of being granted by a ſovereign power.

But their High Mightineſſes, who had for ſome time been entirely governed by French politics, refuſed to give up the ſhips and juſtified the refuſal by an anſwer to the following effect: " That they would in no reſpect take upon them to judge of the legality or illegality of thoſe who have, on the open ſea, taken any veſſels which do not belong to their country; that they only open their ports to give them ſhelter from ſtorms or other diſaſters, and that they oblige them to go to ſea again with the prizes without ſuffering them to unload or diſpoſe of any part of their cargoes, that they may be liable to be retaken in the ſame ſtate in which they were taken: but do not think themſelves authoriſed to paſs judgment upon thoſe prizes, or the perſon of Paul Jones, &c."

The

A. D. 1779 The combined fleets of France and Spain, which conſiſted of between ſixty and ſeventy line of battle ſhips, and a proportionable quantity of inferior veſſels, entered the Channel about the middle of Auguſt, and paraded two or three days before Plymouth, to the great alarm of the people, but attempted nothing. A ſtrong eaſterly wind, which continued for ſeveral days, ſeems to have driven them out of the Channel; and on the laſt day of Auguſt, Sir Charles Hardy, the commander of the Britiſh fleet, which did not conſiſt of more than thirty-ſix ſhips of the line, gained the entrance of the Channel, in ſight of the combined fleets, without their being able to prevent him.

The great object of the Engliſh Admiral ſeems to have been, to bring them into the narrow part of the Channel, where he would have been able to engage them upon leſs diſadvantageous terms; and where a defeat, or certain changes of wind, muſt have been productive of the moſt ruinous conſequences to the enemy. The combined fleets purſued him as high up as Plymouth, and ſoon after repaired to Breſt. Thus ended the expectations of the enemy, and the apprehenſions of Great Britain. An attack upon Plymouth was certainly meditated, and the ſickly ſtate of the fleet, which had buried ſometimes ſeveral hundreds in a day, was the principal reaſon for its returning to port; where, as ſoon as poſſible after their arrival, 7,000 ſick were conveyed to the hoſpitals on ſhore. It may ſurely be conſidered as an uncommon inſtance of good fortune, that one of the greateſt naval forces which had ever been aſſembled on the ocean, ſhould hover on our coaſts without doing us any injury; and that but a few days before its appearance, a great Jamaica fleet, conſiſting of 200 ſhips, ſhould have arrived in England; while eight homeward bound Eaſt Indiamen, having timely notice of the danger, had taken refuge in the harbour of Limerick in Ireland.

Among the exertions which were at this time made by individual perſons, and ſocieties for the defence of the kingdom, it becomes us to mention, that the Eaſt India Company, with a ſpirit ſuited to its character, beſides giving a conſiderable bounty towards raiſing 6,000 men for the naval ſervice, made a noble offer to the crown, which was accepted, of building and furniſhing three 74 gun ſhips, as an addition to the royal navy.

A very valuable Spaniſh ſhip, called the N. S. de Pidat, was taken in the autumn of this year by the Dart privateer of Dartmouth, of 14 guns; ſhe was upwards of 600 tons, and mounted 16 guns; her cargo conſiſted of 142,117 ſilver dollars; 38,949 dollars in gold doubloons; 31 ingots of gold; 5 ingots of ſilver; 42 bales of fine beaver; 21,061 hides in the hair; 3 bales of fine wool; 1 bale of fine fur, &c.

To the honour of an enlightened age and an enlightened nation, the French miniſter of marine, by the particular order of his government, iſſued a protection (which was publiſhed in the French Gazettes, and communicated to the whole French navy,) to the Britiſh circumnavigators, Captain Cook of the Reſolution, and Captain Clarke of the Diſcovery, who were now ſuppoſed to be on their return to Europe.

In this year, 59 ſhips were employed from England in the whale fiſhery to Davis's Streights and the Greenland Seas. The bounty was now at 30s. per ton. The Dutch employed 105 ſhips in the ſame trade, and within the ſame period.

There were 3,900 ſhips cleared outwards from Newcaſtle during this year, including their repeated voyages, 3,670 being coaſtwiſe, and 230 to foreign ports.

The want of a ſupply of American tar occaſioned, at this time, a diſcovery of the utmoſt utility, and which will be a great ſaving to this country. Some gentlemen of Briſtol

A. D.

1779 ſet up works for extracting the oil from pit-coal, uſed for making lamp-black; this oil was boiled down to the conſiſtence of tar, which it exactly reſembles in colour and quality, and is with difficulty diſtinguiſhed from real tar. It poſſeſſes all the qualities of tar, for half the price, and is found in paying ſhips bottoms to be an excellent preſervative againſt the worms. The oil is alſo boiled down to the conſiſtence of pitch, and is found to be an excellent ſuccedaneum for that article. After the oil is extracted from the coal, the reſiduum is a very good coke. But of the ſubject of coal tar we ſhall obſerve more at large at a future period, when we come to conſider it in that ſtate of perfection, to which it is at length brought by the active mind and philoſophic reſearch of the Earl of Dundonald.

By a liſt of the number of empty houſes in the city, as returned, at this time, by the deputies of the ſeveral wards, the total appeared to be 1,104; the rents of which were calculated to amount to 26,375l.

The following are authentic extracts from the Corn Regiſter, containing an account of all the corn and grain exported from, and imported into England and Scotland, during the ſpace of one year.

EXPORTED.

1779.	*Britiſh*	*Foreign*
ENGLAND.	*Qrs.*	*Qrs.*
Wheat & Wheat Meal,	155,003	7,781
Wheat Flour,	48,186	1,795
Rye, —	3,162	37
Barley, —	4,948	2,583
Malt, —	74,287	—
Oats, —	11,291	5,635
Oatmeal, —	2,475	29
Beans, —	19,075	6,384
Peas, —	13,130	5,106
SCOTLAND.		
Wheat, —	256	—
Wheat Flour,	9,239	—
Barley and Bear,	937	—
Malt, —	3,022	—
Oats, —	219	—
Oatmeal,	2,638	—
Peas and Beans,	897	—

IMPORTED.

1779.	*Quarters.*
ENGLAND.	
Wheat, —	3,508
Wheat Flour,	1,103
Rye, —	1,693
Barley, —	7,085
Oats, —	331,858
Oatmeal, —	669
Beans, —	14,591
Peas, —	29,154
SCOTLAND.	
Wheat Flour,	425
Oats, —	15,984

The bounties and drawbacks on corn exported from England, amounted to 51,349l. 2s. 6d. The amount of the bounties paid on grain exported from Scotland, was 3,157l.

The duties on corn imported into England, amounted to 2,849l. 18s. 7d.; and in Scotland, to 139l. 18s. 2¼d.

The average prices of corn in England and Wales, by the ſtandard Wincheſter buſhel, were, wheat, 4s. 2½d.; rye, 2s. 11d.; barley, 2s. 5¼d.; oats, 1s. 9d.; beans, 3s. 0¼d.

A. D. 1779. As, at ſuch a period as this, the riſe and fall of the public funds becomes too intereſting a ſubject to be omitted in this work, we ſhall give the year's hiſtory of them; arranging oppoſite to each month, the higheſt and loweſt prices which each ſtock bore during the courſe of that month.

	Bank Stock.	India Stock.	South Sea Stock	S Sea Old Ann.	S Sea New Ann.	3 per ct. In. Ann.	3 per cent. reduc	3 per cent. conſol	3 per ct. B. 1726	3½ p. ct. B. 1751	3½ p. ct. B. 1758	4 per cent. 1762	Nav Bills	Long Ann.	India Bonds.	Ann. 1778. Yrs. p.
January,	107½	130¼	70	60⅛	59½	57⅞	61⅛	60⅛	61	60¼	62⅝	61⅜	5¼	11¼	1 4	12½
	110⅛	142	—	62½	61⅛	58¾	63½	62½	—	60½	—	64	6	—	1 11	—
February,	109¼	139¼	—	—	—	59	63⅛	62	61½	59⅞	—	62	5⅜	18⅝	1 14	11
	110¾	143	70¼	60	60⅞	57⅝	61	59½	—	60½	59½	63⅝	7¼	18	0. 5	11½
March,	—	140	—	—	59⅛	58	—	64	—	59	64	62	8	17⅛	1 2	—
	115½	153½	—	63⅛	61⅞	—	—	61½	—	60½	62⅜	62⅛	6⅜	18⅞	0 12	12
April,	114¾	152¾	—	60¾	60¼	—	—	—	60	—	62⅛	—	8	17⅜	0 17	—
	118½	156	72½	63¼	64¼	59½	64	65¼	61½	63½	64⅝	64⅜	7½	18⅛	1 6	—
May,	112¾	—	—	—	63	58½	63¾	63⅞	—	62⅝	—	63⅞	8	18	0 13	12⅝
	—	151½	—	61¾	62½	59½	62½	62⅝	61¼	61¼	63	63	7¼	18¼	1 14	—
June,	—	—	71	—	—	—	63	63¼	61½	61½	63¼	63¼	—	—	1 15	12⅜
	106¾	141½	70	58⅝	60½	56¾	59	60	60⅜	60½	62½	60⅜	11½	18½	0 4	11 5/16
July,	—	—	—	59⅜	60	—	60	61	—	—	—	—	10¾	—	0 9	11¾
	109	138¼	69½	60⅛	59⅝	57½	61½	59⅛	—	59¼	59¾	62	10	17⅝	1 8	—
Auguſt,	—	—	—	—	—	57⅛	60⅛	60	59¾	60¾	—	—	9¾	—	1 12	11 13/16
	111½	139	—	61½	60¼	58¾	62⅝	61¼	—	59½	61½	62¾	10½	18½	1 6	—
September,	111¼	—	71	—	60½	—	62¼	—	—	—	61	63⅛	—	—	1 12	11 15/16
	114	143¼	—	62½	61½	58⅞	—	62⅜	60⅛	62¼	6 ¼	62⅞	11⅝	18	0 15	—
October,	113¼	142¾	—	—	60¼	—	—	61⅛	—	60⅝	60½	—	—	—	0 16	11⅞
	109⅝	144¾	—	60	61⅛	57	61	62	60½	—	62⅛	—	—	18⅛	1 6	—
November,	110	144½	71½	—	—	—	61½	61¾	—	60½	62	60⅝	11⅛	18¼	1 8	—
	110¾	144¾	—	59⅜	60½	57¾	60¼	61¼	—	61⅞	61⅜	61½	11½	18½	1 1	—
December,	110	144	—	—	60¼	57⅛	60	—	—	—	60½	60⅝	—	18	0 15	11¾
	107½	143¾	—	60⅛	60⅞	—	61⅝	61⅝	—	—	61¾	61⅝	5¼	18⅛	1 5	—

The following bills relating to trade and commerce, received the royal aſſent in the parliamentary ſeſſions of this year.

For allowing the importation of fine Italian organiſed thrown ſilk, for a limited time.

For the better preſervation of the oyſter fiſhery at Whitſtable.

For the better government of his Majeſty's ſhips, veſſels, and forces at ſea.

For the better ſupply of mariners and ſeamen to ſerve in his Majeſty's navy.

For allowing the importation of certain goods, ſold to foreigners, in Britiſh built ſhips.

For laying additional duties on certain goods under the inſpection of the commiſſioners of exciſe and cuſtoms.

For the better encouraging the white herring fiſhery.

For better encouraging the Iriſh linen manufactory.

For regulating lottery-office keepers.

To repeal ſo much of ſeveral acts of Parliament, as prohibit the growth and produce of tobacco in Ireland, and to permit the importation of tobacco of the growth and produce of that kingdom into Great Britain, &c.

For granting a bounty upon the importation into this kingdom of hemp of the growth of Ireland, for a limited time.

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1779 For granting a drawback of the duties impoſed, by an act of the laſt ſeſſion of Parliament, upon all foreign wines exported from Great Britain to any Britiſh colony in America, or to any Britiſh ſettlement in the Eaſt Indies.

For better ſecuring the duties on ſtarch.

To prevent frauds by private diſtillers.

To prevent frauds and abuſes in the payment of wages to perſons employed in the bone and thread-lace manufactory.

For the preſervation of the river Lee.

For taking off the duties upon all ſalt uſed in curing pilchards.

For diſcontinuing the duties on cotton wool, the growth and product of the Britiſh colonies in America.

For allowing the importation of goods into this kingdom from Aſia and Africa.

To amend the act for laying a tax on auctions and ſales.

For granting to his Majeſty additional duties on vellum, parchment and paper.

For veſting in the Eaſt India Company, for a limited time, certain territorial acquiſitions obtained in India.

For removing certain difficulties with reſpect to the more ſpeedy and effectual manning of his Majeſty's navy, for a limited time.

For granting a free trade, &c. to Ireland.

To prevent the clandeſtine conveyance of ſugar, &c. from America into Great Britain, &c.

A bill to prevent ſmuggling, alſo paſſed in this ſeſſion, from which we have ſelected the following abſtracts:

"A penalty of 300l. is laid on any maſter of a ſhip coming from abroad, having more than 100 pounds weight of tea on board, (not being an Eaſt India ſhip) or more than 100 gallons of foreign ſpirits, in caſks under 60 gallons, (beſides two gallons for each ſeaman on board).

"Foreign ſpirits imported from any part of Europe, in a veſſel containing leſs than 60 gallons, are forfeited, with the ſhip, furniture, &c.

"When any tea, coffee, or goods liable to forfeiture, is found on board any ſhip coming from foreign parts, at anchor, or hovering within two leagues of the coaſt, the ſhip, if not above 200 tons, is forfeited, with her furniture, &c.

"Every perſon who ſhall ſell coffee, tea, cocoa nuts, or make or ſell chocolate, muſt paint over his door, 'dealer in coffee, &c.' on penalty of 200l.

"Every importer or dealer in foreign ſpirits muſt paint over his door, 'importer of, or 'dealer in foreign ſpirits,' on penalty of 50l.

"Every dealer in tea, foreign ſpirits, &c. who ſhall buy any of the ſaid goods of any perſon who has not the words aforeſaid over his door, is liable to an additional penalty of 100l.

"Every perſon, not a dealer, who ſhall buy any tea, ſpirits, &c. of any perſon that has not the words aforeſaid over his door, ſhall forfeit 10l.

"All foreign thread-lace imported, to be marked at each end at the cuſtom-houſe, and perſons poſſeſſed of foreign lace may have it marked at the neareſt cuſtom-houſe, making oath that the duties were paid.

"All foreign thread-lace, not marked, will be forfeited; and any perſon counterfeiting the mark, or that ſhall ſell or have in his cuſtody lace with a counterfeit mark, will forfeit 100l. and be adjudged to ſtand in the pillory two hours; and their aiders, abettors, and aſſiſtants, will be liable to the ſame fine and puniſhment."

SUPPLIES

A. D. 1779

Supplies granted by Parliament for this year:—	£.	s.	d.
For 70,000 ſeamen, including 17,389 marines, ordnance, &c.	3,640,000	0	0
For the ordinary of the navy, including half-pay, &c.	369,882	6	1
Towards building and repairing ſhips of war,	579,187	0	0
For the pay of the general and ſtaff-officers, &c.	37,206	8	6½
For 30,346 land-forces, including 3,213 invalids, &c.	833,911	18	6
For the militia and three regiments of fencible men in North Britain,	610,882	5	0
For the cloathing of the militia,	85,760	17	2
For additional militia companies,	5,421	18	6
For cloathing of ditto,	2,656	4	0
For the charge of ſeveral augmentations to his Majeſty's forces,	159,653	3	4
For a regiment of fencibles to be raiſed in North Britain, &c.	19,584	2	0
To make good the charge of forming three regiments of light dragoons, &c. out of certain light troops,	6,246	5	6
For an augmentation to a corps of Royal Highland Emigrants, &c.	4,113	6	8
For compleating the whole pay of certain regiments, which of late years have been paid in part of the revenues of Ireland, and are now in North America,	63,195	11	10
For the difference of pay between the Britiſh and Iriſh eſtabliſhment of certain regiments, &c.	52,923	1	6
For maintaining forces and garriſons out of the kingdom,	1,103,118	11	0
For five Hanoverian battalions ſerving at Gibraltar and Minorca,	56,074	19	4½
For the charge of 13,472 Heſſian troops and ſubſidy,	367,203	9	10
For ditto of two regiments of foot of Hanau,	35,441	3	2¾
Ditto of one regiment of Waldeck,	17,498	3	2¾
For the charge of 4,300 Brunſwickers,	93,947	15	8
For proviſions for the foreign troops ſerving in America,	48,668	3	9¼
For artillery for the foreign troops,	27,683	14	0
For ditto of 1,447 troops of the Margrave of Anſpach, &c.	39,644	14	3
To make good a deficiency in the ſums voted for the troops of the Margrave of Anſpach, in 1778,	7,958	10	11½
For a corps of foot of Anhalt Zerbſt, with the ſubſidy, &c.	16,630	11	9¼
For extra army expences, &c. not provided for by Parliament,	2,026,137	4	4½
For repairing, &c. Britiſh forts and ſettlements on the coaſt of Africa,	13,000	0	0
For the charge of the office of ordnance for the land ſervice, &c.	395,438	15	4
For ſervices performed by ditto for ditto, not provided for in 1778,	521,935	13	5
For the civil eſtabliſhment of the iſland of St. John,	3,250	0	0
Ditto of Georgia,	2,900	0	0
Ditto of Nova Scotia,	4,796	0	0
Ditto of Eaſt Florida,	4,950	0	0
Ditto of Weſt Florida,	4,900	0	0
On account of the reduced officers of his Majeſty's land forces, &c.	87,703	8	4
For allowances to ſeveral officers and private gentlemen of the two reduced troops of horſe-guards, &c.	628	2	11
Carried forward,	11,350,133	10	1

A. D.
1779

	£.	s.	d.
Brought over,	11,350,133	10	1
For the charge of out-penſioners of Chelſea Hoſpital, &c.	103,127	14	2
To the Levant Company,	5,000	0	0
On account of new roads and bridges in the Highlands of North Britain,	6,995	0	0
For the augmentation of the ſalaries of the puiſne judges,	3,600	0	0
For ditto of the Chief Baron of the Exchequer,	500	0	0
To make good to his Majeſty the like ſum iſſued by his Majeſty's orders, in purſuance of the addreſſes of the Houſe of Commons,	32,968	2	8
To Mr. Duncan Campbell, for employing convicts on the Thames,	13,586	7	0
For the relief of certain American civil officers, &c.	60,527	3	6
On account of general ſurveys in North America,	2,041	0	0
To James Berkenhout, Eſq. and Thomas Clarke, of the town of Leeds, dyers, on a proper diſcovery to be made by them, for the uſe of the public, of their method of dying ſcarlet and crimſon, as well as other colours on linen and cotton,	5,000	0	0
Towards diſcharging certain Exchequer bills,	1,500,000	0	0
For diſcharging certain other Exchequer bills,	1,000,000	0	0
For ditto,	500,000	0	0
For diſcharging the prizes of the lottery of 1778,	490,000	0	0
To replace to the ſinking fund the like ſum paid out of the ſame, to make good the deficiency of the fund for paying certain annuities, &c.	40,540	0	0
To replace to ditto, the like ſum paid out of the ſame, on account of certain other annuities, &c.	98,891	3	8
To make good the deficiency of the grants for the ſervice of the year 1778,	66,744	4	3¾
Deficiency in the land-tax,	250,000	0	0
Ditto in the malt-tax,	200,000	0	0
Total Supplies,	15,729,654	5	4¾

The Ways and Means for raiſing the foregoing ſupplies.	£.	s.	d.
Duty on malt,	750,000	0	0
Land tax at 4s.	2,000,000	0	0
By annuities and lottery,	7,490,000	0	0
From the ſurplus of the ſtamp duties, &c.	15,297	10	5¼
By certain ſurpluſſes of the ſinking fund,	2,071,854	13	8½
By Exchequer bills,	1,500,000	0	0
By ditto,	1,900,000	0	0
Certain monies remaining in the Exchequer, ſubject to the diſpoſition of Parliament,	2,763	0	0
Total of Ways and Means,	15,729,915	4	1¾
Supplies granted,	15,729,654	5	4¾
Exceſs of proviſions,	260	18	9

☞ A vote

A. D.
1779 ☞ A vote of credit for one million was alſo granted this ſeſſion, and is charged on the next aids.

	£.	s.	d.
The additional public debt funded and provided for this year, amounted to ſeven millions; the intereſt of which, at 3 per cent. per annum, is	210,000	0	0
The additional annuity of 3l. 15s. per cent. per annum, for 29 years, amounted to — — — — —	262,500	0	0
Total amount,	472,500	0	0

This ſum was raiſed in the following manner:—

An additional duty of 5 per cent. on the full produce of the exciſe and cuſtoms; beer and ale, ſoap, candles, and hides excepted,	282,109	0	0
A tax on poſt-horſes, of 1d. per horſe, per mile, —	164,250	0	0
An additional duty of 5 per cent. on cambric, — —	36,000	0	0
Total of new taxes, —	482,359	0	0
Intereſt of the additional public debt funded,	472,500	0	0
Exceſs of new taxes, — —	9,859	0	0

The number of chriſtenings and burials within the bills of mortality in London, &c. from December 15, 1778, to December 14, 1779, is as follows:

CHRISTENED.		BURIED.	
Males,	8,640	Males,	10,208
Females,	8,129	Females,	10,212
Total,	16,769	Total,	20,420

1780 An event which happened on the firſt day of this year, afforded ſome reaſon to expect that hoſtilities would take place between Great Britain and Holland before the concluſion of it.

Of thoſe ſtates whoſe conduct was hoſtile to this country during her conteſt with the American colonies, there was not one, all circumſtances of relation between the two powers conſidered, which ſo immediately merited an inimical return as that of Holland. Since the commencement of this unfortunate diſpute, a clandeſtine commerce had been carried on between the Dutch and Americans, which was extremely advantageous to the latter. The encouragement given to the revolted colonies was without reſerve or the ſhadow of concealment.—They were not only ſupplied with whatever Holland could afford them, but an open and ready reſpect was ſhewn to the American flag, in a manner incompatible with the honour and dignity of Great Britain.

Memorials, as we have already ſeen, had been frequently preſented by Sir Joſeph Yorke to the States-General concerning this unfriendly conduct in their ſubjects; and in one of them, it had been hinted rather forcibly, that the reſentment of the court of London would follow a further infringement of that good faith which ought to bind all ſtates in friendſhip with each other. To ſuch remonſtrances, indeciſive anſwers, framed with much exterior reſpect, were

1780 returned ; but the correſpondence ſo prejudicial to the intereſts of Great Britain, ſtill continued to be carried on without any change or diminution.

On the commencement of hoſtilities with France, this inſidious conduct on the part of Holland towards Great Britain, became more active, and even more apparent, than it had hitherto been. The dock-yards of France were ſupplied with all kinds of materials for the conſtruction and equipment of fleets, with as much care and diligence as if his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty and the ſtates of Holland had been engaged in the cloſeſt alliance againſt Great Britain.

It was natural for the Britiſh court to feel reſentment at ſuch unprovoked ill-treatment ; but went no further than to give orders for the ſeizure of ſuch Dutch veſſels as were found to be laden with naval ſtores, &c. for the French ports : and, in order to take away all reaſonable pretences of complaint from the Dutch, the Britiſh government, inſtead of making prizes of the veſſels laden with theſe hoſtile cargoes, adopted the generous determination of a former war, to purchaſe, at a fair valuation, all the naval ſtores that were on board the Dutch veſſels brought into the ports of Great Britain, to pay the freight of the cargoes, and to indemnify the proprietors in all the juſt expences and damages occaſioned by the detention of their veſſels.

While, however, the court of Great Britain was making frequent complaints of the injurious and faithleſs obſtinacy with which the Dutch merchants continued to furniſh the French with naval ſtores,—they, on the other hand, preſented a memorial to the States, remonſtrating againſt the ſeizure of their veſſels employed in that buſineſs, and requiring ſuch a protection as would enable them to proſecute it in ſafety.

France, in the mean time, ſenſible that ſuch reſources as came through the medium of Holland, were eſſentially neceſſary to the ſupport of her marine, inſiſted, in a very peremptory manner, that this branch of the Dutch trade ſhould be protected by the States, as well as every other ; and threatened to conſider a relaxation of the demands made upon Great Britain by Holland, on this ſubject, as an infraction of the neutrality which Holland was bound to obſerve between France and Great Britain, and as evident proof of partiality to the latter power.

In order, however, to encourage the importation of naval ſtores, a regulation had been iſſued in France, by which advantages were granted to neutral veſſels as might induce them to ſupply its navy with thoſe materials neceſſary for its equipment : but, on the States-General not complying with the requiſition of the French miniſtry in the manner it had propoſed, theſe advantages were revoked, in reſpect to the ſubjects of the United Provinces, as we have related in the hiſtory of laſt year ; with an exception, however, in favour of Amſterdam, which had warmly eſpouſed the cauſe of France, and demanded of the States the armament of a ſquadron for the protection of its navigation to that kingdom, againſt the Britiſh cruizers.

The court of France muſt have been very conſcious of its powerful influence in the ſtates of Holland, to have aſſumed the power of preſcribing to them in what manner they ſhould obſerve their treaties with Great Britain : indeed, the French faction was at this time ſo prevalent, that ſuch an inſulting act of pretended authority was not only received without reſentment, but repreſented as founded in particular friendſhip and general juſtice. On the other hand, the conduct of the Britiſh government was conſidered by the ſame party as injuſtifiable, and as aſſuming to itſelf an excluſive right of framing laws for the commercial correſpondence between different ſtates.

When Spain acceded to the confederacy againſt Great Britain, ſimilar cauſes of complaint aroſe, and ſimilar repreſentations were made to the States-General: but the difficulties wherein we were involved, ſeemed to have infuſed into the Dutch an inveterate deſire to add to the diſtreſſes of a nation to whom they owed their political exiſtence, as a free people, and whoſe friendly and powerful hand had frequently interpoſed, and delivered them from the greateſt dangers.

At length, the requiſitions of France found a compliance; and a ſquadron of men of war was appointed by the States of the United Provinces to convoy a fleet of merchantmen laden with naval ſtores for the French navy. On the intelligence of their being ſailed arriving in England, a ſquadron was immediately diſpatched, under the command of Commodore Fielding, to intercept them. On meeting the Dutch fleet, he requeſted the uſual permiſſion to ſearch them; which being refuſed, in direct violation of the right eſtabliſhed by treaty, he ſent his boats, with ſtrict orders to inſiſt upon the examination of their cargoes: theſe boats were fired upon by the Dutch commander, Count Byland, and prevented from executing the buſineſs on which they had been ordered; whereupon Commodore Fielding fired a ſhot a-head of the Dutch admiral, who returned it with a broadſide; the Engliſh commodore replied with another, when the former immediately ſtruck his colours. Many of the Dutch ſhips, however, that were in the predicament which occaſioned the conteſt, had, from the length and darkneſs of the night, and by keeping cloſe to the ſhore, eſcaped the danger, and proceeded without interruption to the French ports; thoſe that remained with naval ſtores on board, were ſtopped; and the Dutch admiral was then informed, that he was at liberty to hoiſt his colours, and proſecute his voyage: but he accepted only of the former part of the offer made him, refuſing to ſeparate from his convoy; and, accordingly, with the whole fleet which remained with him, accompanied the Britiſh ſquadron to Spithead.

The complaints of the States-General were very violent on this occaſion; nevertheleſs, there cannot be a doubt but that they had been guilty of a manifeſt violation of ſubſiſting treaties, by which the right of ſearch, in ſuch inſtances wherein it had been exerciſed by Great Britain, was incontrovertibly eſtabliſhed. But, at this moment, Holland was become a tool of France, and the influence of the latter was ſo commanding in the councils of the former, that while its ſubjects were permitted to aſſiſt the enemies of Great Britain in the moſt open and decided manner, they were prohibited, under very ſevere penalties, to furniſh the garriſon of Gibraltar with proviſions.

This conduct betrayed a moſt unaccountable forgetfulneſs of the ties by which they were, and had been, ſo long connected with Great Britain, and of the acknowledged neceſſity of preſerving that balance of power in Europe, in which Holland was more immediately concerned than any ſtate upon the continent. It alſo proved with what ſucceſs the enemies of England had exerted themſelves in ſetting aſide the political ſyſtem that had ſo long prevailed in the republic, to the interrupting that intimate and natural friendſhip with the Britiſh nation, the utility of which to Holland had been demonſtrated by the experience of two centuries.

Incenſed at ſuch provocations, the court of Great Britain was determined to force an explicit anſwer from the States-General reſpecting their ultimate intentions to this country.—The Britiſh ambaſſador at the Hague was therefore directed to renew the requiſition for ſuccours, &c.; and he accordingly, on the 21ſt of March, preſented a memorial to the following purport:—

1780 "*High and Mighty Lords,*

"The King, my Maſter, has always cultivated the friendſhip of your High Mightineſſes, and has always conſidered the alliance which has ſo long ſubſiſted between the two nations, as founded on the wiſeſt principles, &c. The principal objects of that alliance, ſupported upon the ſtrong baſis of common intereſt, are the ſecurity and proſperity of the two ſtates, the maintenance of public tranquillity, and the preſervation of that juſt equilibrium, which has been ſo often troubled by the ambitious policy of the Houſe of Bourbon.

"When the court of Verſailles, in direct violation of the public faith, and the common right of all ſovereigns, broke the peace, by a league made with his Majeſty's rebellious ſubjects, which was avowed and formally declared by the Marquis de Noailles; when France, by immenſe preparations, manifeſted a deſign to annihilate the maritime power of England, the King thought your High Mightineſſes too ſenſible not to ſee that the welfare of the republic was ſo cloſely connected with that of Great Britain, as to induce you to haſten to its ſuccour. One of his Majeſty's firſt cares was to inform you of all the circumſtances of that unjuſt war; and, in the critical ſituation in which the King found himſelf, he did not forget the intereſts of his ancient allies; but, on the contrary, ſhewed the ſincereſt deſire to favour the trade and free navigation of the republic as much as the welfare of his people would permit. He even refrained a long time to claim the ſuccours ſtipulated by treaty; and, though he fulfilled his own engagements, did not require the ſame from your High Mightineſſes.—The reclamation in queſtion was not made till the united forces of France and Spain were ready to fall upon England at once, and attempt a landing with a formidable fleet. Although they were fruſtrated in that enterprize, the King's enemies are ſtill meditating the ſame projects; and it is by the expreſs order of his Majeſty, that the underwritten again renews, in the moſt formal manner, the demand of the ſuccours ſtipulated by different treaties, and particularly that of 1716.

"Hitherto your High Mightineſſes have been ſilent upon this eſſential article; whilſt you inſiſted upon a forced interpretation of the treaty of commerce of the year 1674, againſt the abuſe of which Great Britain at all times proteſted.. This interpretation cannot be reconciled with the clear and particular ſtipulation of the ſecret article of the treaty of peace of the ſame year. An article of a treaty of commerce, cannot annul ſo eſſential an article of a treaty of peace; and both are expreſsly comprehended in the principal treaty of alliance of 1678, by which your High Mightineſſes are obliged to furniſh his Majeſty with the required ſuccours. You are too wiſe, and too juſt, not to feel that all the engagements between powers ought to be mutually and reciprocally obſerved; and, although they were agreed upon at different periods, do alike bind the contracting parties. This inconteſtable principle is the more applicable here, as the treaty of 1716 renews all the anterior engagements between the crown of England and the republic, and, in a manner, includes them in one.

"The underwritten had further orders to declare to your High Mightineſſes, that he was ready to enter into a conference with you to regulate, in an amicable manner, all that was neceſſary to prevent a miſunderſtanding, and every other diſagreeable event, by concerting meaſures which ſhould be both equitable and advantageous to both countries; but this amicable overture was refuſed in a manner as unexpected and extraordinary, as unuſual between two friendly powers: and without paying any attention either to the repeated public or private repreſentations relative to convoys, you not only granted theſe convoys to different ſorts of naval ſtores, but more particularly ordered, that a certain number of men of war ſhould be ready, 1780 for the future, to convoy naval ammunition of all ſorts to the ports of France; and that at a time when the ſubjects of the republic enjoyed, by treaty, a liberty and extent of commerce far beyond what the right of nations grants to neutral powers.

"This reſolution, and the orders given to Rear-admiral Count Byland, to oppoſe, by force, the ſearching of the merchant-ſhips, brought on an incident which the friendſhip of the King deſired much to prevent: but it is notorious that that admiral, in conſequence of his inſtructions, fired firſt at the boats under Engliſh colours, which were ſent to examine the ſhips in the manner preſcribed by the treaty of 1674.

"This then is a manifeſt aggreſſion,—a direct violation of that ſame treaty which your High Mightineſſes ſeem to look upon as the moſt ſacred of all. His Majeſty had beforehand made reiterated repreſentations upon the neceſſity and juſtice of the examination, which had taken place in all analogous circumſtances, and is fully authorized by the treaty. They were apprized in London that a number of veſſels were at the Texel, laden with naval ſtores, and particularly with maſts and large ſhip-building timber, ready to ſail for France, with, or under Dutch convoy. The event proved the truth of theſe informations, as ſeveral of theſe veſſels were found under the ſaid convoy; and the greateſt part of them eſcaped, and furniſhed France with very efficacious ſupplies, of which they ſtood in great need. Whilſt your High Mightineſſes thus aſſiſted the King's enemies, by favouring the tranſportation of theſe ſuccours, you impoſed an heavy penalty on thoſe ſubjects of the republic who ſhould ſupply the garriſon of Gibraltar with proviſions, although that place was comprehended in the general guarantee of all the Britiſh poſſeſſions in Europe; and although, at that moment, Spain had diſturbed the trade of the republic in an unprecedented and outrageous manner.

"It is not only on theſe occaſions that the conduct of your High Mightineſſes towards the King, and towards the enemies of his Majeſty, holds up a ſtriking contraſt to the impartial eyes of all the world:—No one can be ignorant of what paſſed in the affair of Paul Jones;—the aſylum granted to that pirate, was directly contrary to the treaty of Breda, in 1667, and to your placard, in 1756:—Beſides which, although your High Mightineſſes have kept, and ſtill continue to keep, an abſolute ſilence relative to the juſt reclamations of his Majeſty, yet, upon the ſimple requeſt of the King's enemies, you aſſured them you would obſerve a ſtrict and unlimited neutrality, without any exceptions of the ancient engagements of the republic, founded on the moſt ſolemn treaties.

"Notwithſtanding all this, the King is willing to perſuade himſelf, that all which has paſſed, is leſs to be attributed to the real ſentiments of your High Mightineſſes, than to the artifices of his enemies; who, after ſowing diſcord between the members of the ſtates, have, by threats and promiſes, endeavoured to ſet them againſt their ancient ally.

"His Majeſty cannot think that your High Mightineſſes have reſolved to abandon a ſyſtem that the republic has kept to for more than a century with ſo much ſucceſs and glory.

"But if ſuch is the reſolution of your High Mightineſſes,—if you are determined to break the alliance with Great Britain, by refuſing to fulfil your engagements, things will bear a new face: the King will ſee any ſuch change with a very ſenſible regret, but the conſequences will be neceſſary and inevitable. If, by an act of your High Mightineſſes, the republic ſhould ceaſe to be an ally of his Majeſty, the relations between the two nations are totally changed, and they have no other connections, no other ties, than thoſe which ſubſiſt between neutral powers in friendſhip and unity. Every treaty being reciprocal, if you will not fulfil your engagements, the conſequence muſt be, that thoſe on the part of the King ceaſe to be any longer

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1780 binding. It is in departing from theſe inconteſtable principles, that his Majeſty has ordered the underwritten to declare to your High Mightineſſes, in the moſt amicable, but yet the moſt ſerious manner, that if, contrary to his juſt expectations, your High Mightineſſes do not, in the courſe of three weeks, from the day of the repreſentation of this memorial, give a ſatisfactory anſwer relative to the ſuccours reclaimed eight months ago, his Majeſty will conſider ſuch conduct as breaking off the alliance on the part of your High Mightineſſes, and will not look upon the United Provinces in any other light than on the footing of other neutral powers, unprivileged by treaty; and, conſequently, will ſuſpend, till further orders, all the particular ſtipulations of the treaties made in favour of the ſubjects of the republic, particularly thoſe of the treaty of 1674, and will only hold to the general principles of the right of nations, which ſerves as a rule for neutral and unprivileged powers.

(Signed) "JOSEPH YORKE."

To this memorial the following proviſional anſwer was given:—

"That their High Mightineſſes are very deſirous to coincide with the wiſhes of his Britiſh Majeſty, by giving a poſitive anſwer to the memorial delivered by his ambaſſador; but that their High Mightineſſes foreſee, that from the nature of the government of the republic, it is impoſſible to return an anſwer in three weeks time; as the memorial muſt be deliberated upon by the different provinces, and their reſolutions waited for.—That they are aſſured his Majeſty would not wiſh rigorouſly to keep to the before-mentioned time; but that their High Mightineſſes might be able to conclude upon an anſwer conformable to the conſtitution of the republic, in which they had no right to make any alteration; and they promiſe to accelerate the deliberations upon that head as much as poſſible."

This reply was conſidered, and with great juſtice, by the Britiſh miniſtry, as a mere evaſion. The States-General had already been eight months in poſſeſſion of the requeſt now repeated; ſo that it could be conſidered as nothing leſs than an inſult to require a longer time to deliberate upon the buſineſs. It was therefore determined by the court of Great Britain, to put in force, conformably to the notice which had been given, the ſuſpenſion of the privileges enjoyed by the ſubjects of Holland, in virtue of the conceſſions made in their favour by former treaties.—The following declaration therefore was publiſhed on the 17th of April:—

"Whereas, ſince the commencement of the war in which Great Britain is engaged by the unprovoked aggreſſion of France and Spain, repeated memorials have been preſented by his Majeſty's ambaſſador to the States-General of the United Provinces, demanding the ſuccours ſtipulated by treaty; to which requiſition, though ſtrongly called upon in the laſt memorial, of the 21ſt of March, their High Mightineſſes have given no anſwer, nor ſignified any intention of compliance therewith: and, whereas by the non-performance of the cleareſt engagements, they deſert the alliance that has ſo long ſubſiſted between the crown of Great Britain and the republic, and place themſelves in the condition of a neutral power, bound to this kingdom by no treaty, every principle of wiſdom and juſtice requires that his Majeſty ſhould conſider them henceforward as ſtanding only in that diſtant relation in which they have placed themſelves.—His Majeſty, therefore, having taken this matter into his royal conſideration, doth, by and with the advice of his privy council, judge it expedient to carry into immediate execution thoſe intentions which were formally notified in the memorial preſented by his ambaſſador on the 21ſt of March laſt, and previouſly ſignified in an official verbal declaration, made by Lord Viſcount Stormont, one of his Majeſty's principal ſecretaries of ſtate, to Count Welderen, envoy extraordinary and plenipotentiary from the republic, nearly about two months

months before the delivery of the aforeſaid memorial.—For theſe cauſes, his Majeſty, by and with the advice of his privy council, doth declare, that the ſubjects of the United Provinces are henceforward to be conſidered upon the ſame footing with thoſe of other neutral ſtates not privileged by treaty; and his Majeſty doth hereby ſuſpend, proviſionally, and till further order, all the particular ſtipulations reſpecting the freedom of navigation and commerce, in time of war, of the ſubjects of the States-General, contained in the ſeveral treaties now ſubſiſting between his Majeſty and the republic, and more particularly thoſe contained in the marine treaty between Great Britain and the United Provinces, concluded at London, December $\frac{1}{11}$, 1674.

"From a humane regard to the intereſts of individuals, and a deſire to prevent their ſuffering by any ſurprize, his Majeſty, &c. doth declare, that the effect of this his Majeſty's order ſhall take place at the following terms, viz.

"In the Channel and the North ſeas, twelve days after the date hereof.

"From the Channel, the Britiſh ſeas, and the North ſeas, as far as the Canary iſlands incluſively, either in the ocean or Mediterranean, the term ſhall be ſix weeks, from the aforeſaid date.

"Three months from the ſaid Canary iſlands as far as the equinoctial line or equator.

"And, laſtly, ſix months beyond the ſaid line or equator, and in all other parts of the world, without any exception, or other more particular deſcription of time and place.

(Signed) "STEPHEN COTTREL."

The beginning of this year was alſo marked by a very extraordinary meaſure adopted in the north of Europe, where a power, which, however great in itſelf, was of little maritime conſequence, now took upon her to dictate a new code of maritime laws to mankind, in many reſpects eſſentially differing from thoſe which had, for ſeveral hundred years, been eſtabliſhed amongſt commercial nations, and went directly to the deſtruction of that ſovereignty or pre-eminence on the ocean, which had been ſo long claimed and maintained by this country: this was the manifeſto or declaration iſſued by the court of Peterſburg, on the 26th of February, to the courts of London, of Verſailles, and of Madrid; which was the firſt ſtep towards forming that powerful naval confederacy between the northern powers, to which moſt of the neutral ſtates afterwards acceded.—Of a tranſaction ſo new to the commercial world, we ſhall borrow the following brief account from the pen of a gentleman, who, from ſituation and talents, was perfectly qualified to write on the ſubject.

"The jealouſy entertained by the maritime powers of Europe of the pre-eminence exerciſed by Great Britain at ſea, had operated hitherto but covertly and indirectly. Expecting that the union of the Houſe of Bourbon would have proved ſufficient to give it an effectual check, they had remained paſſive ſpectators of a conteſt, which they imagined would not fail to terminate to the diſadvantage of this country: ſo great and potent a combination as that of France, Spain, and America, ſeemed to promiſe, without any additional aid, to bring the maritime ſtrength of Britain to that ſtate of diminution, which was the general wiſh and aim of European politics.

"But when it was found that the ſpirit and exertions of this country were ſuch, as afforded little hope that even this mighty confederacy would ſucceed in compaſſing this long deſired object, a determination was taken by all the remaining powers to form a naval combination, in order to effect it.

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1780 "Pretences for a meaſure of this kind were not wanting.—The activity and number of Britiſh privateers had rendered them univerſal objects of terror, not only to the commercial ſhipping of their enemies, but to the numerous veſſels belonging to other powers, that were employed in furniſhing them with ſuch articles as were not conſiſtent with a ſtrict and fair neutrality. Goods coming under this deſcription, in the plaineſt and moſt incontrovertible manner, were nevertheleſs often made a ſubject of litigation, and the letter of treaties was wreſted, in order to put a wrong interpretation upon them, in evident contradiction of the ſpirit by which they were dictated.

"As the Britiſh miniſtry inſiſted, on the other hand, on the propriety and lawfulneſs of ſeizing articles of this nature, contentions aroſe between Great Britain and the various powers to which the veſſels laden with ſuch articles belonged. Indeed, the right of preventing ſupplies from being carried to the enemy was ſo manifeſt, that nothing but an inclination to make uſe of any opportunity to quarrel with this nation, could have prompted that eagerneſs with which all Europe ſeemed to conſpire in refuſing to admit the validity of arguments upon which the conduct of the Britiſh government was founded.

"The principles alleged in its defence were derived from ancient and long received practice: they had, for ages, conſtituted that part of the law of nations which relates to the uſages eſtabliſhed in civilized countries in times of war. They formed ſo powerful a barrier to the deſigns in agitation againſt Great Britain, that while their validity was allowed, no juſt complaint could be framed againſt the conduct of the Britiſh miniſtry.

"The only method therefore to arraign it, was to call in queſtion the rectitude of thoſe principles, and to eſtabliſh a new ſyſtem of maritime laws, contrary to thoſe which had been ſo long in force. By theſe means, the pretences of Britain would be overthrown, and the right ſhe claimed of intercepting the ſupplies carried to her enemies would be entirely annulled.

"That power which took the lead in the promulgation of this new ſyſtem was Ruſſia;—a power that ought, according to all the rules of what ſeemed juſt policy, to have acted a friendly part to Britain, and to have diſcountenanced a meaſure which tended ſo manifeſtly to injure her.

"It was under the protection of theſe ancient maxims and cuſtoms, that Britain maintained the arduous conflict againſt ſo many powerful enemies, with no ſmall ſucceſs:—It was for that reaſon alone, that Europe determined they ſhould undergo a total alteration.

"Whatever might be the ſecret motives for ſuch an extraordinary determination in the court of Ruſſia, it was with juſt ſurprize the court of Great Britain received notice that it had formed a code of naval regulations, which militated, in the moſt direct manner, againſt the practices hitherto obſerved in Europe, and were evidently levelled at the maritime power of this country.

"It was a matter of peculiar aſtoniſhment that Ruſſia ſhould be at the head of a combination ſo injurious to Great Britain. The favours ſhe had received from the Britiſh government, in her late war with the Turks, and ſtill more, the commercial benefits reſulting from a connection with this country, ſeemed to ſecure the good-will of Ruſſia, and even its aſſiſtance, in caſe of neceſſity: little therefore was it expected, that it ſhould prove the firſt of all European potentates in that inimical declaration, the intent of which was to deprive Great Britain of the principal reſources that enabled her to maintain her ground in the midſt of ſo many difficulties.

A. D. 1780 "In taking a ſtep of ſuch an unprecedented nature, Ruſſia had previouſly uſed the precaution of ſecuring the concurrence of all her neighbours:—So formidable was the impreſſion of the power and ſpirit of England, notwithſtanding the perils which ſurrounded her, that none of the northern powers durſt preſume, alone and unſupported by the others, to enter the liſts againſt her in ſuch an hoſtile and deciſive manner.

"Denmark and Sweden accordingly joined with Ruſſia in this naval confederacy; to which Holland, and even Portugal, were invited to accede: ſo prevalent and ſo powerful was the univerſal malevolence to Britain, and ſo unqueſtionably was it reputed the intereſt of Europe to co-operate in the humiliation of her maritime grandeur. In this manner was formed that aſſociation of the neutral powers of Europe againſt this country, which aſſumed the denomination of THE ARMED NEUTRALITY."

As this tranſaction was, in all its circumſtances, ſo very extraordinary, and produced ſuch a bold innovation on the commercial law of nations, we ſhall not only give the convention for an armed neutrality at large, but ſhall precede it with the different declarations of the neutral ſtates, and the anſwers of the belligerent powers.

Declaration of the Empreſs of Ruſſia, to the courts of London, of Verſailles, and of Madrid:

"The Empreſs of Ruſſia has ſo well manifeſted the ſentiments of juſtice, of equity, and of moderation, by which ſhe is animated, and has given ſuch convincing proofs, during the war which ſhe ſuſtained againſt the Ottoman Porte, of the ſtrict regard which ſhe has for the rights of neutrality, and the liberty of commerce in general, that ſhe may fairly appeal to the teſtimony of all Europe. This conduct, as well as the principles of impartiality which ſhe has manifeſted during this preſent war, might have inſpired her with the juſt confidence, that her ſubjects would likewiſe peaceably enjoy the fruit of their induſtry, and of the advantages belonging to all neutral nations. Experience has, however, proved the contrary: not theſe conſiderations, nor the regard due and preſcribed by the univerſal law of nations, have prevented her Imperial Majeſty's ſubjects from being often moleſted in their navigation, and retarded in their operations, by the ſhips and privateers of the belligerent powers.

"Theſe vexations offered to the liberty of commerce in general, and to that of Ruſſia in particular, are of ſuch a nature, as to excite the attention of ſovereigns, and of all neutral nations. Her Imperial Majeſty finds herſelf under the obligation of freeing herſelf therefrom, by all means compatible with her dignity, and the welfare of her ſubjects:—But before ſhe means to come to any ſerious meaſures, and in order ſincerely to prevent all new miſunderſtandings, her Imperial Majeſty has thought it juſt and equitable to expoſe to the eyes of all Europe, the principles which ſhe has adopted for her conduct, and which are the moſt proper to prevent all future diſagreement. Her Imperial Majeſty does this with ſo much the more confidence, as ſhe finds theſe principles contained in the laws of the primitive people, which all nations have a right to claim, and which the belligerent powers cannot invalidate, without violating the laws of neutrality, and without diſowning the maxims which they have adopted themſelves, in their different treaties and public engagements. They are contained in the following points:—

"I. That neutral ſhips ſhall enjoy a free navigation, even from port to port, and on the coaſts of the belligerent powers.

"II. That all effects belonging to the ſubjects of the ſaid belligerent powers, ſhall be looked upon as free on board ſuch neutral ſhips, except only ſuch goods as are ſtipulated to be contraband.

" III. That her Imperial Majeſty, for the proper underſtanding of this, refers to the articles X. and XI. of her treaty of commerce with Great Britain, extending her obligations to all the other belligerent powers.

" IV. That in order to determine what characterizes a port blocked up, that denomination ſhall not be granted but to ſuch places before which there are actually a number of enemy's ſhips ſtationed near enough, ſo as to make its entry dangerous.

" V. That theſe principles ſhall ſerve as rules in the judicial proceedings and ſentences upon the legality of prizes.

" Her Imperial Majeſty, in manifeſting thoſe principles before all Europe, at the ſame time declares, that ſhe is firmly reſolved to maintain them, and in order to protect the honour of her flag, and the ſecurity of the commerce and navigation of her ſubjects againſt whomſoever; in conſequence whereof, ſhe has given an order to fit out a conſiderable part of her naval forces. This meaſure has, however, no influence on the ſtrict and rigorous neutrality which her Imperial Majeſty is reſolved religiouſly to obſerve, and which ſhe ſhall obſerve as long as ſhe ſhall not be provoked and forced to depart from thoſe principles of moderation and perfect impartiality. It is only in this extremity that her fleet will be ordered to act, wherever her honour, intereſt, and neceſſity ſhall require.

" In giving this formal aſſurance, with all the frankneſs ſo congenial to her character, her Imperial Majeſty cannot but expect that the belligerent powers, ſenſible of the ſentiments of juſtice and equity with which ſhe is animated, will contribute to the accompliſhment of her ſalutary views, which tend ſo manifeſtly to the welfare of all nations, and to the advantages even of thoſe at war; that in conſequence thereof, they will provide their courts of admiralties, their officers, and commanders, with proper inſtructions, analogous and conformable to the principles here above-mentioned, and drawn from the primitive code of peoples, and ſo often adopted in their own conventions.

" *Peterſburg, February* 26, 1780. (Signed) " CATHARINA."
And lower,
" By order of her Imperial Majeſty,
(Signed) " PANIN."

Declaration of the King of Denmark to the ſame courts :—

" If the moſt exact and perfect neutrality, with the moſt regular navigation, and the moſt inviolable reſpect to treaties, could have kept free the commerce of the ſubjects of the King of Denmark and Norway from the inroads of the powers with whom he is at peace, free and independent, it would not be neceſſary to take meaſures to inſure to his ſubjects that liberty to which they have the moſt incontrovertible right. The King of Denmark has always founded his glory and his grandeur upon the eſteem and confidence of other people. It has been his rule, from the beginning of his reign, to teſtify to all the powers, his friends, a conduct the moſt capable of convincing them of his pacific intentions, and of his deſire to contribute to the general happineſs of Europe. His proceedings have always been conformable to theſe principles, againſt which nothing can be alleged; he has not, till now, addreſſed himſelf but to the powers at war to obtain a redreſs of his griefs; and he has never wanted moderation in his demands, nor acknowledgments, when they have received the ſucceſs they deſerved.—But the neutral navigation has been too often moleſted, and the moſt innocent commerce of his ſubjects too frequently troubled; ſo that the King finds himſelf obliged to take proper meaſures to aſſure to himſelf and allies, the ſafety of commerce and navigation, and the mainte-

1780 nance of the inſeparable rights of liberty and independence. If the duties of neutrality are ſacred, the law of nations has alſo its rights, avowed by all impartial powers, eſtabliſhed by cuſtom, and founded upon equity and reaſon. A nation independent and neuter, does not loſe by the wars of others the rights which ſhe had before the war, becauſe peace exiſts between her and all the belligerent powers. Without receiving or being obliged to follow the laws of either of them, ſhe is allowed to follow, in all places, (contraband excepted) the traffic which ſhe would have a right to do, if peace exiſted with all Europe, as it exiſts with her. The King pretends to nothing beyond what the neutrality allows him:—This is his rule, and that of his people; and the King cannot accord to the principle, that a power at war has a right to interrupt the commerce of his ſubjects. He thinks it due to himſelf and his ſubjects, faithful obſervers of theſe rules, and to the powers at war themſelves, to declare to them the following principles, which he has always held, and which he will always avow and maintain, in concert with the Empreſs of all the Ruſſias, whoſe ſentiments he finds entirely conformable with his own."

[Here follow the propoſed principles of neutrality, exactly correſponding with thoſe adopted by Ruſſia.]

Declaration of the King of Sweden to the ſame courts:—

" Ever ſince the beginning of the preſent war, the King has taken particular care to manifeſt his intentions to all Europe. He impoſed upon himſelf the law of a perfect neutrality; he fulfilled all the duties thereof with the moſt ſcrupulous exactitude: and, in conſequence thereof, he thought himſelf entitled to all the prerogatives naturally appertaining to the qualification of a ſovereign perfectly neuter. But notwithſtanding this, his commercial ſubjects have been obliged to claim his protection, and his Majeſty has found himſelf under the neceſſity to grant it to them.

" To effect this, the King ordered, laſt year, a certain number of men of war to be fitted out. He employed a part thereof on the coaſts of his kingdom, and the reſt ſerved as convoys for the Swediſh merchant-ſhips, in the different ſeas which the commerce of his ſubjects required them to navigate. He acquainted the ſeveral belligerent powers with theſe meaſures, and was preparing to continue the ſame during the courſe of this year, when other courts, who had likewiſe adopted a perfect neutrality, communicated their ſentiments unto him, which the King found entirely conformable to his own, and tending to the ſame object.

" The Empreſs of Ruſſia cauſed a declaration to be delivered to the courts of London, Verſailles, and Madrid, in which ſhe acquainted them of her reſolution to protect the commerce of her ſubjects, and to defend the univerſal rights and prerogatives of neutral nations.—This declaration was founded upon ſuch juſt principles of the law of nations, and the ſubſiſting treaties, that it was impoſſible to call them into queſtion. The King found them entirely concordant with his own cauſe, and with the treaty concluded in the year 1666, between Sweden and France; and his Majeſty could not forbear to acknowledge and to adopt the ſame principles, not only with regard to thoſe powers with whom the ſaid treaties are in force, but alſo with regard to ſuch others as are already engaged in the preſent war, or may be involved therein hereafter, and with whom the King has no treaties to reclaim. It is the univerſal law; and when there are no particular engagements exiſting, it becomes obligatory upon all nations.

" In conſequence thereof, the King declares hereby again, that he will obſerve the ſame neutrality, and with the ſame exactitude as he has hitherto done. He will enjoin all his ſubjects, under rigorous pains, not to act in any manner whatever contrary to the duties which a ſtrict

1780 ſtrict neutrality impoſes upon them; but he will effectually protect their lawful commerce, by all poſſible means, whenever they carry on the ſame conformably to the principles here above-mentioned."

But previous to the court of Sweden's final acceſſion to the neutral confederacy propoſed by Ruſſia, ſhe required an explanation from that court relative to the following particulars:—

"I. How, and in what manner, a reciprocal protection and mutual aſſiſtance ſhall be given?

"II. Whether each particular power ſhall be obliged to protect the general commerce of the whole; or, if in the mean time, it may employ a part of its armament in the protection of its own particular commerce?

"III. If ſeveral of theſe combined ſquadrons ſhould meet, or, for example, one or more of their veſſels, what ſhall be the rule of their conduct towards each other, and how far ſhall the neutral protection extend?

"IV. It ſeems eſſential to agree upon the manner in which repreſentations ſhall be made to the powers at war, if, notwithſtanding our meaſures, their ſhips of war, or armed veſſels, ſhould continue to interrupt our commerce in any manner.—Muſt theſe remonſtrances be made in the general name of the united powers, or ſhall each particular power plead its own cauſe only?

"V. Laſtly, it appears eſſentially neceſſary to provide againſt this poſſible event,—where one of the united powers ſeeing itſelf driven to extremities againſt any of the powers actually at war, ſhould claim the aſſiſtance of the allies in this convention to do her juſtice: in what manner can this be beſt concerted?—A circumſtance which equally requires a ſtipulation, that the repriſals, in that caſe, ſhall not be at the will of ſuch party injured, but that the common voice ſhall decide: otherwiſe, an individual power might, at its pleaſure, draw the reſt, againſt their inclinations and intereſts, into diſagreeable extremities, or break the whole league, and reduce matters into their original ſtate, which would render the whole fruitleſs, and of no effect.

To theſe queries the court of Ruſſia returned the following anſwer:—

"I. As to the manner in which protection and mutual aſſiſtance ſhall be granted, it muſt be ſettled by a formal convention, to which all the neutral powers will be invited; the principal end of which is, to inſure a free navigation to the merchant-ſhips of all nations. Whenever ſuch veſſel ſhall have proved, from its papers, that it carries no contraband goods, the protection of a ſquadron, or veſſels of war, ſhall be granted her, under whoſe care ſhe ſhall put herſelf, and which ſhall prevent her being interrupted.—From hence it follows:

"II. That each power muſt concur in the general ſecurity of commerce. In the mean time, the better to accompliſh this object, it will be neceſſary to ſettle, by means of a ſeparate article, the places and diſtances which may be judged proper for the ſtation of each power.—From that method will ariſe this advantage, that all the ſquadrons of the allies will form a kind of chain, and be able to aſſiſt each other: the particular arrangement to be confined only to the knowledge of the allies, though the convention, in all other points, will be communicated to the powers at war, accompanied with all the proteſtations of a ſtrict neutrality.

"III. It is undoubtedly the principle of a perfect equality which muſt regulate this point. We ſhall follow the common mode with regard to ſafety.—In caſe the ſquadrons ſhould meet and engage, the commanders will conform to the uſages of the ſea-ſervice; becauſe, as is obſerved above, the reciprocal protection, under theſe conditions, ſhould be unlimited.

A. D. 1780 "IV. It ſeems expedient, that the repreſentations mentioned in this article, be made by the party aggrieved; and that the miniſters of the other confederate powers ſupport thoſe remonſtrances in the moſt forcible and efficacious manner.

"V. We feel all the importance of this conſideration; and, to render it clear, it is neceſſary to diſtinguiſh the caſe.

"If any one of the allied powers ſhould ſuffer itſelf to be drawn in by motives contrary to the eſtabliſhed principles of a neutrality and perfect impartiality, ſhould injure its laws, or extend their bounds, it cannot certainly be expected that the others ſhould eſpouſe the quarrel; on the contrary, ſuch a conduct would be deemed an abandoning the ties which united them. But if the inſult offered to one of the allies ſhould be hoſtile to the principles adopted and announced in the face of all Europe, or ſhould be marked with the character of hatred and animoſity, inſpired by reſentment, theſe common meaſures of the confederation, which have no other tendency than to make, in a preciſe and irrevocable manner, laws for the liberty of commerce, and the rights of every neutral nation,—then it ſhall be held indiſpenſable for the united powers to make a common cauſe of it, (at ſea only) without its being a ground-work for other operations, as theſe connections are purely maritime, having no other object than naval commerce and navigation.

"From all that is ſaid above, it evidently reſults, that the common will of all, founded upon the principles admitted and adopted by the contracting parties muſt alone decide, and that it will always be the fixed baſis of the conduct and operations of this union. Finally, we ſhall obſerve, that theſe conventions ſuppoſe no other naval armament than what ſhall be conformable to circumſtances, according as thoſe ſhall render them neceſſary, or as may be agreed. It is probable that this agreement, once ratified and eſtabliſhed, will be of the greateſt conſequence; and that the belligerent powers will find in it ſufficient motives to perſuade them to reſpect the neutral flag, and prevent their provoking the reſentment of a reſpectable communion, founded under the auſpices of the moſt evident juſtice, and the ſole idea of which is received with the univerſal applauſe of all impartial Europe."

The following anſwer was given by his Britannic Majeſty to the declaration of the Empreſs of Ruſſia:—

"During the courſe of the war wherein his Britannic Majeſty finds himſelf engaged, through the unprovoked aggreſſion of France and Spain, he hath conſtantly manifeſted his ſentiments of juſtice, equity, and moderation, in every part of his conduct. His Majeſty hath acted towards friendly and neutral powers according to their own procedure reſpecting Great Britain, and conformably to the cleareſt principles generally acknowledged as the laws of nations, being the only law between powers where no treaties ſubſiſt, and agreeably to the tenor of his different engagements with other powers; thoſe engagements have altered this primitive law, by mutual ſtipulations, proportioned to the will and convenience of the contracting parties.

"Strongly attached to her Majeſty of all the Ruſſias, by the tie of reciprocal friendſhip and common intereſt, the King, from the commencement of thoſe troubles, gave the moſt preciſe orders reſpecting the flag of her Imperial Majeſty, and the commerce of her ſubjects, agreeably to the laws of nations, and the tenor of the engagements ſtipulated by his treaty of commerce with her, and to which he ſhall adhere with the moſt ſcrupulous exactneſs.

"The orders to this intent have been renewed, and the utmoſt care will be taken for their ſtricteſt execution.

A. D. 1780 “ It may be preſumed, that not the leaſt irregularity will happen; but in caſe any infringement contrary to theſe repeated orders take place, the courts of admiralty, which in this, like all other countries, are eſtabliſhed to take cognizance of ſuch matters, and in all caſes do judge ſolely by the laws of nations, and by the ſpecific ſtipulations of different treaties, will redreſs every hardſhip in ſo equitable a manner, that her Imperial Majeſty ſhall be perfectly ſatisfied, and acknowledge a like ſpirit of juſtice which ſhe herſelf poſſeſſes.”

Anſwer of the French King to the declaration of the Empreſs of Ruſſia:—

“ The war in which the King finds himſelf engaged, having no other object than his attachment to the principles of perfect liberty at ſea, his Majeſty could not but with great ſatisfaction behold the Empreſs of Ruſſia adopting the ſame principles, and at the ſame time expreſſing a firm reſolution to maintain them. What her Imperial Majeſty claims from the belligerent powers, is nothing elſe than the rules preſcribed to the French navy; the execution whereof is maintained with an exactitude known and applauded by all Europe.

“ The freedom of commerce of neutral ſhips, reſtrained only in a very few caſes, is the direct reſult of the law of nature, the ſafe-guard of nations, the relief even of thoſe who are afflicted by the calamities of war. The King has therefore been always deſirous to procure, not only to the ſubjects of the Empreſs of Ruſſia, but alſo to thoſe of all other ſtates that have adopted a ſtrict neutrality, the liberty to navigate the ſeas on the ſame conditions as are mentioned in the declaration, to which his Majeſty is hereby giving an anſwer.

“ The King flattered himſelf with having made a great ſtep towards the general welfare, and with having prepared a glorious æra for his reign, in fixing, by his example, the rights which all belligerent powers might, and ſhould acknowledge, as belonging to neutral ſhips. His hopes have not been decreaſed, ſince the Empreſs of Ruſſia, in adopting the ſtricteſt neutrality, has declared herſelf for the ſame ſyſtem, which the King maintains at the price of the blood of his people; and as ſhe claims the ſame rights which his Majeſty wiſhes to make the foundation of a maritime code of law.

“ If it were neceſſary to iſſue freſh orders, that the ſhips of her Imperial Majeſty's ſubjects might not be under any apprehenſion of being interrupted in their navigation by any of the King's ſubjects, his Majeſty would be very ready to iſſue them; but the Empreſs of Ruſſia will undoubtedly rely on his Majeſty's diſpoſitions, which are contained in the different regulations that have been publiſhed. They do not depend upon circumſtances;—they are founded upon the law of nations;—and they are becoming a Prince who is happy enough to find always in the general proſperity the meaſure of that of his kingdom. The King only wiſhes that her Imperial Majeſty would more explicitly fix the nature of merchandizes which ſhall be reputed contraband in times of war, and give more preciſe rules for the form of clearances, and other papers, wherewith the Ruſſian ſhips ſhall be provided.

“ With this precaution, his Majeſty is well aſſured that no accident whatever will happen, which might make him repent to have rendered, as much as lay in his power, the condition of the Ruſſian navigators as advantageous as it is poſſible in time of war. Other happy circumſtances have already convinced both courts, at ſeveral times, of what conſequence it is to explain themſelves with frankneſs and ſincerity upon their reſpective intereſts.

“ The King is happy in having an opportunity to expreſs to her Imperial Majeſty his ſentiments upon a point ſo intereſting to Ruſſia, and all the commercial powers of Europe.—And he applauds the more ſincerely the principles and views which direct the Empreſs of Ruſſia, as his Majeſty takes part in the ſentiments and motives which have engaged that Princeſs

A. D. 1780 ceſs to adopt meaſures, from which ſolid advantages will undoubtedly reſult, not only to her ſubjects, but alſo to all nations.

Verſailles, *April* 25, 1780.

Anſwer from the King of Spain to the Declaration of the Empreſs of Ruſſia.

"The King being informed of the Empreſs's ſentiments with reſpect to the belligerent and neutral powers, by a memorial remitted to the Comte de Florida Blanca, on the 15th inſtant, by Mr. Etienne de Zinowief, Miniſter to her Imperial Majeſty: the King conſiders this as the effect of a juſt confidence which his Majeſty has on his part merited; and it is yet more agreeable that the principles adopted by this ſovereign ſhould be the ſame as have always guided the King, and which his Majeſty has for a long time, but without ſucceſs, endeavoured to cauſe England to obſerve, while Spain remained neuter. Theſe principles are founded in juſtice, equity and moderation; and theſe ſame principles Ruſſia and all the other powers have experienced in the reſolutions formed by his Majeſty; and it has been entirely owing to the conduct of the Engliſh navy, both in the laſt and the preſent war, (a conduct wholly ſubverſive of the received rules among neutral powers) that his Majeſty has been obliged to follow their example; ſince the Engliſh paying no reſpect to a neutral flag, if the ſame be laden with effects belonging to the enemy, even if the articles ſhould not be contraband, and that flag not uſing any means of defending itſelf, there could not be any juſt cauſe why Spain ſhould not make repriſals, to indemnify herſelf for the great diſadvantages ſhe muſt otherwiſe labour under. The neutral powers have alſo laid themſelves open to the inconveniencies they have ſuffered, by furniſhing themſelves with double papers, and other artifices to prevent the capture of their veſſels; from which have followed captures and detentions innumerable, and other diſagreeable conſequences, though in reality not ſo prejudicial as pretended; on the contrary, ſome of theſe detentions have turned to the advantage of the proprietors, as the goods, being ſold in the port where they were condemned, have frequently gone off at a higher price than they would have done at the place of their deſtination.

"The King, nevertheleſs, not contented with theſe proofs of his juſtification, which have been manifeſt to all Europe, will this day have the glory of being the firſt to give the example of reſpecting the neutral flag of all the courts that have conſented, or ſhall conſent, to defend it, till his Majeſty finds what part the Engliſh navy takes, and whether they will, together with their privateers, keep within proper bounds. And to ſhew to all the neutral powers how much Spain is deſirous of obſerving the ſame rules in time of war as ſhe was directed by whilſt neuter, his Majeſty conforms to the other points contained in the declaration of Ruſſia. To be underſtood, nevertheleſs, that, with regard to the blockade of Gibraltar, the danger of entering ſubſiſts, as determined by the fourth article of the ſaid declaration. Theſe dangers may, however, be avoided by the neutral powers, if they conform to thoſe rules of precaution eſtabliſhed by his Majeſty's declaration of the 13th of laſt March, which has been communicated to the court of Peterſburg by his miniſter.

"*At Aranjuez*, *April* 18, 1780. FLORIDA BLANCA."

Empreſs of Ruſſia's memorial to the States General.

"*High and Mighty Lords*,

"The under-written envoy extraordinary from her Majeſty the Empreſs of all the Ruſſias, has the honour to communicate hereby a copy of a declaration, which the Empreſs, his ſovereign, has made to the different powers actually at war. Your High Mightineſſes will undoubtedly look upon this communication as a particular mark of her Imperial Majeſty's attention

A. D. 1780 tion for this republic, equally intereſted in the reaſons which have given riſe to this declaration. He has moreover orders to declare, in the name of her Imperial Majeſty, that, as much as ſhe deſires to maintain, during the preſent war, the moſt perfect neutrality, as much will ſhe be jealous to maintain, by the moſt efficacious means, the honour of the Ruſſian flag, and the ſecurity of commerce, and navigation of her ſubjects, and will not ſuffer the leaſt infringement or moleſtation from any of the belligerent powers: that, in order to avoid, on this occaſion, all miſunderſtandings, or falſe interpretations, her Imperial Majeſty has thought proper to ſpecify, in her declaration, the limits of a free commerce, and what is to be underſtood by contraband; that if the definition of the firſt is founded on the moſt ſimple and clear notions, and fully and moſt explicitly determined by the law of nature, that of the laſt is taken literally by her Imperial Majeſty, from the treaty of commerce between Ruſſia and Great Britain: that by theſe means her Imperial Majeſty proves inconteſtably her good faith and impartiality towards all parties, and conſequently may expect that all the other commercial powers will be the more expeditious to accede to her way of thinking concerning the neutrality.

"With theſe views her Imperial Majeſty has ordered the under-written envoy extraordinary to invite your High Mightineſſes to make a common cauſe with her, in ſo far as this union may ſerve to protect commerce and navigation, in obſerving at the ſame time the moſt exact neutrality, and to ſignify unto them the meaſures her Imperial Majeſty has taken in conſequence thereof.

"The like invitation has already been given to the courts of Copenhagen, of Stockholm, and of Liſbon, in order that, by the united care of all the neutral maritime powers, the navigation of all the neutral trading nations may be eſtabliſhed and legalized, and a ſyſtem adopted, founded upon juſtice, and which by its real advantage may ſerve for rules for future ages.

"The under-written envoy extraordinary makes not the leaſt doubt that your High Mightineſſes will take her Imperial Majeſty's invitation into immediate conſideration, and that they will concur with her in making without delay a declaration to the belligerent powers, founded upon the ſame principles as thoſe of her Imperial Majeſty, and that they will explain themſelves at the ſame time concerning the protection of their commerce and navigation, and of the nature of contraband, conformably to the expreſs terms of their particular treaties with the other nations.

"The under-written envoy extraordinary has moreover the honour to aſſure your High Mightineſſes, that if, in order to eſtabliſh upon a ſolid foundation a ſyſtem as glorious as it is advantageous to the welfare of the navigation in general, they ſhould be inclined to begin a negociation with the above-mentioned neutral powers, ſo as to eſtabliſh a particular convention on this ſubject, her Imperial Majeſty will be ready to take a part in it.

"Your High Mightineſſes will eaſily perceive the neceſſity of accelerating their reſolutions upon objects as important as they are advantageous to humanity in general: the under-written envoy extraordinary begs the favour of a ſpeedy anſwer.

"(Signed,)

"*At the Hague, April* 3, 1780. DIMITRI PRINCE DE GALLITZIN."

The naval treaty, or convention, for an armed neutrality, concluded at Copenhagen, June 28, 1780, O. S. between her Majeſty the Empreſs of Ruſſia, and his Majeſty the King of Denmark and Norway, for the preſervation of the liberty of the commerce and navigation of neuter nations; to which his Majeſty the King of Sweden, and their High Mightineſſes the

A. D. 1780 States General of the United Provinces acceded, and reſpectively ſigned the ſame at Peterſburg, on the 21ſt of July, 1780, and the 5th of January, 1781; which was as follows:

"Whereas the commerce and navigation of neuter powers is greatly injured by the preſent war at ſea, which has broken out between Great Britain, on the one part, and France and Spain, on the other part, her Majeſty the Empreſs of Ruſſia, and his Majeſty the King of Denmark and Norway, in conſequence of their aſſiduous attention to ſupport their own dignity, and to unite their conſtant care for the ſafety and welfare of their reſpective ſubjects; as well as from the reſpect which they have at all times manifeſted for the rights of nations in general, have found it neceſſary, in the preſent circumſtances, to determine their conduct according to theſe ſentiments.

"Her Majeſty the Empreſs of Ruſſia, in her declaration to the belligerent powers, dated February 28, 1780, has plainly ſtated, in the face of all Europe, the fundamental principles which derive from the primitive rights of mankind, and which her ſaid Majeſty claims and adopts as a rule of her conduct in the preſent war. As this attention of her Imperial Majeſty, in watching over the reciprocal rights of nations, has been honoured with the approbation of all neutral powers, her ſaid Majeſty has engaged in this affair, which materially concerns her moſt eſſential intereſts, and has proceeded therein ſo far, that it may be ſeriouſly conſidered as a ſubject worthy of the attention of both the preſent and future time, as it tends to the eſtabliſhment of a permanent and invariable ſyſtem of the rights, prerogatives, and engagements of neutrality.

"His Majeſty the King of Denmark and Norway, convinced of the juſtice of theſe principles, has likewiſe eſtabliſhed and claimed them in his declaration of the 8th of July, 1780, which declaration (as well as that of the Empreſs of Ruſſia) his ſaid Majeſty has cauſed to be communicated to the belligerent powers; and in order to ſupport theſe principles efficaciouſly, his Majeſty has ordered part of his fleet to be fitted out. From theſe proceedings have ariſen that harmony and unanimity with which her Majeſty the Empreſs of Ruſſia, and his Majeſty the King of Denmark and Norway, have thought neceſſary, in mutual friendſhip and reciprocal confidence, and in conformity to the intereſt of their reſpective ſubjects, to confirm their common engagements by the concluſion of a formal convention.

"To this end their Imperial and Royal Majeſties have choſen plenipotentiaries, who have concluded and agreed to the following articles:

"I. That their aforeſaid Majeſties are ſincerely determined to maintain, conſtantly, the moſt perfect friendſhip and harmony with the different powers at preſent engaged in war, and to obſerve the moſt ſcrupulous neutrality; and in conſequence thereof they declare, that adhering to this determination, the prohibition of all contraband trade with the powers at preſent at war, or with thoſe who may hereafter be engaged therein, ſhall be ſtrictly obſerved by their reſpective ſubjects.

"II. To avoid all errors and miſunderſtandings with regard to commodities which ſhall be deemed contraband, her Majeſty the Empreſs of Ruſſia, and his Majeſty the King of Denmark and Norway, do hereby declare, that they ſhall only acknowledge ſuch articles to be contraband commodities as are included and mentioned in the treaties now ſubſiſting between their reſpective courts, and the one or the other of the belligerent powers.

"Her Majeſty the Empreſs of Ruſſia conforms herſelf entirely, in this reſpect, to the articles X. and XII. of her treaty of commerce with the court of Great Britain, and extends likewiſe the engagements of this treaty, which are founded upon the natural rights of nations, to the

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1780 the courts of France and Spain; which ſaid courts, until the date of this preſent convention, have no treaty of commerce with her empire.

"His Majeſty the King of Denmark and Norway, on his part, conforms himſelf chiefly to the ſecond article of this treaty of commerce with the court of Great Britain, and to the articles XXVI. and XXVII. of his treaty of commerce with France, and extends alſo the engagements of this laſt-mentioned treaty to the court of Spain, as his ſaid Majeſty has no treaty with the laſt-mentioned power, which determines any conditions relative to this ſubject.

"III. As by theſe means all contraband goods and commodities are determined and aſcertained conformable to the treaties and ſpecial convention ſubſiſting between the high contracting parties and the belligerent powers, and chiefly in the treaty between Ruſſia and Great Britain of the 20th of June, 1766, as well as in that between Denmark and Great Britain, dated July 11, 1670, and by that concluded between Denmark and France, on the 23d of Auguſt, 1742; the will and intention of her Majeſty the Empreſs of Ruſſia, and of his Majeſty the King of Denmark and Norway are, that all other commerce ſhall be and remain free.

"Their ſaid Majeſties having already ſet forth in their declaration to the belligerent powers, that they have laid down, as the baſis of their conduct, the general principles of the natural rights of mankind, from whence the liberty of commerce and navigation, and the rights of neuter nations derive, are reſolved not to depend any longer upon the arbitrary explication of theſe rights, which is generally dictated by partial advantages and momentary intereſts; with this view, their ſaid Majeſties have agreed upon the following articles:

"1. That all neutral veſſels ſhall be permitted to navigate from port to port, and on the coaſts of the belligerent powers.

"2. That the effects belonging to ſubjects of the belligerent powers ſhall be free on board neuter ſhips and veſſels, excepting only ſuch articles as are ſtipulated to be deemed contraband.

"3. In order to determine what is to be conſidered as a port blocked up, it is hereby declared, that that port ſhall only be deemed as ſuch into which no ſhips can enter without being expoſed to an evident peril from the forces that attack the ſaid port, and the ſhips that ſhall have taken a ſtation near enough for that purpoſe.

"4. That neuter veſſels ſhall only be liable to be ſtopped and ſeized for juſt and cogent reaſons, and upon the moſt convincing proofs, that juſtice ſhall be done unto them without loſs of time, and that the proceedings ſhall always be uniform, ſpeedy, and according to the laws; and that whenever any ſhall be found to have been ſtopped, or ſuffered any damage without any ſufficient cauſe, they ſhall not only be entitled to a ſufficient compenſation, but alſo to a compleat ſatisfaction for the inſult offered to the flag of their Majeſties.

"IV. In order to obtain this end, and to protect the general commerce of their ſubjects, founded upon theſe invariable principles, her Majeſty, the Empreſs of Ruſſia, and his Majeſty, the King of Denmark and Norway, have reſolved to fit out, ſeparately, a proportionate number of ſhips of the line and frigates; and the ſquadrons of theſe reſpective powers ſhall repair to ſuch latitudes, and ſhall ſerve as convoys to the trading ſhips of their reſpective ſubjects, wherever the commerce and navigation of each nation ſhall require it.

"V. In caſe that any merchant ſhips belonging to ſubjects of one of the high contracting parties ſhould happen to be in a ſea or latitude where no ſhips of war of their ſovereign are ſtationed, and that they conſequently could not obtain any protection from the forces of their own nation, the commander of the ſhips of war of the other power, upon being duly requeſted, ſhall

immediately

A. D. 1780 immediately afford them all neceſſary aſſiſtance; and in this caſe, it is hereby ſtipulated, that the ſhips and frigates of the one power ſhall always grant the neceſſary protection and aſſiſtance to the trading ſhips of the other power; provided always, that thoſe who ſhall claim ſuch aſſiſtance or protection, ſhall not carry on any illicit trade which may be contrary to the laws of neutrality, as received and mentioned here above.

"VI. The preſent convention ſhall not be retro-active, and conſequently neither of the high contracting parties can take recognizance of any differences that may have ariſen between them and other powers before its concluſion, unleſs the matter in litigation ſhall be relative to violences which are ſtill exiſting, and which may tend to oppreſs all neuter nations in Europe.

"VII. If, notwithſtanding the vigilant and amicable care of the two high contracting parties, and the moſt exact obſervations of neutrality on their part, any Ruſſian or Daniſh merchant ſhips ſhould happen to be inſulted or taken by the ſhips of war or privateers of one or the other of the belligerent powers, the miniſter of the offended party ſhall make proper repreſentations to that court whoſe ſhips of war or privateers have been guilty of the ſaid act; he ſhall inſiſt upon a reaſonable compenſation for the damages or loſs of time, as well as upon a complete ſatisfaction for the inſult offered to the flag of his ſovereign. The miniſter of the other high contracting party ſhall ſecond and ſupport theſe repreſentations in the moſt ſerious and efficacious manner, and thus they ſhall continue jointly and unanimouſly until their requeſt is granted. But in caſe of a refuſal, or any unreaſonable delay from time to time to redreſs theſe grievances, their aforeſaid Majeſties do hereby declare, that they will make uſe of repriſals towards that power that refuſes to do them juſtice, and will immediately unite, in the moſt efficacious means, to execute theſe juſt repriſals.

"VIII. In caſe that one of the high contracting parties, or both together, ſhould be diſturbed, moleſted, or attacked, in conſequence of this convention, or any ſubject whatever relative thereto, it is hereby ſtipulated and agreed, that the two powers ſhall immediately act in concert for their mutual and reciprocal defence, and ſhall employ and unite all their forces to obtain a proper ſatisfaction, as well for the inſult offered to their flag, as for the loſſes ſuſtained by their reſpective ſubjects.

"IX. This convention ſhall be in full force as long as this preſent war ſhall laſt; and the engagements contained therein ſhall ſerve as the baſis for all future engagements and treaties that may be concluded hereafter, according to circumſtances, and in caſe any other maritime war ſhould hereafter unfortunately diſturb the tranquillity of Europe. As to the reſt, all what has been ſtipulated and agreed upon, ſhall be conſidered as permanent and invariable, as well with regard to mercantile affairs as for what concerns the navy, and ſhall have force of law in all deciſions upon the rights of neuter nations.

"X. As the end and chief object of this convention is to ſecure the general liberty of the commerce and navigation, their Majeſties, the Empreſs of Ruſſia, and the King of Denmark and Norway, do hereby conſent, and engage themſelves reciprocally, to permit that other neuter powers may accede thereto; and that theſe powers ſo acceding, being fully acquainted with the fundamental principles and engagements concerned in the obligations and advantages of the ſaid convention.

"XI. And in order that the belligerent powers may have no pretext for their proceedings, or pretend to be unacquainted with theſe engagements between their aforeſaid Majeſties, the high contracting powers do hereby promiſe, that they will ſeparately acquaint the belligerent powers with the meaſures they have taken, and the motives which have engaged them to unite

1780 in this affair; which meaſures are the leſs hoſtile as they are no ways detrimental to any other power, but have only for object the ſecurity of the commerce and navigation of their reſpective ſubjects.

"Done at Copenhagen, the 9th of July, 1780.

"CHARLES VAN OSTENSAKEN, (L. S.)
"J. SCHACK RATHLAU, (L. S.)
"A. P. COUNT OF BERNSTORFF, (L. S.)
"O. THOTT, (L. S.)
"H. EICHSTEDT, (L. S.)"

The ratifications of this convention were exchanged at Copenhagen, on the 16th of September, 1780, by the ſame miniſters plenipotentiaries.

And as a like convention was concluded at Peterſburg, between the miniſters appointed by that court, and thoſe on the part of his Majeſty the King of Sweden, on the 21ſt of July, 1780; and the ſaid convention being word for word of the ſame tenor and form as that concluded and ſigned at Copenhagen, excepting only the ſecond article, in which the ſtipulations concerning the articles that are to be deemed contraband, are determined according to the treaties ſubſiſting between the court of Sweden and other powers, it has been thought proper, to avoid a repetition of what has already been mentioned, to inſert here the ſaid ſecond article only.

"Art. II. To avoid all errors and miſunderſtandings with regard to commodities which ſhall be deemed contraband, her Majeſty the Empreſs of Ruſſia, and his Majeſty the King of Sweden, do hereby declare, that they ſhall only acknowledge ſuch articles to be contraband commodities as are included and mentioned in the treaties now ſubſiſting between their reſpective courts, and the one or the other of the belligerent powers.

"Her Majeſty the Empreſs of Ruſſia conforms herſelf entirely in this reſpect to the articles X. and XI. of her treaty of commerce with the court of Great Britain, and extends likewiſe the engagements of this treaty, which are founded upon the natural rights of nations, to the courts of France and Spain; which ſaid courts, until the date of the preſent convention, have no treaty of commerce with her empire.

"His Majeſty the King of Sweden, for his part, refers chiefly to the eleventh article of this treaty of commerce with the court of Great Britain, and to the tenor of the preliminary treaty of commerce concluded between Sweden and France in the year 1741; and although the articles that are to be deemed contraband are not expreſsly aſcertained and determined in the laſt-mentioned treaty, the two powers having been underſtood to conſider each other as *gens amiciſſima*, the court of Sweden has, however, reſerved to itſelf the ſame advantages which the Hans-towns enjoy in France ſince times immemorial until the preſent period. The advantages which are included in the treaty of Utrecht being fully confirmed, the King has nothing to add thereto. With regard to the court of Spain, his Swediſh Majeſty finds himſelf in the ſame ſituation as the Empreſs of Ruſſia, and following her Majeſty's example, the King likewiſe extends to the court of Spain all the engagements of the above-mentioned treaties, as being founded upon the natural rights of nations.

"In conſequence of this difference in the above article, the two Kings who have joined her Majeſty the Empreſs of Ruſſia, in this affair, have acceded, as principal contracting parties, to the treaties and conventions concluded between them and her ſaid Imperial Majeſty, and to this

A. D. 1780 this effect they have ſigned with their own hand a ſeparate act, which ſaid acts have been exchanged in due form at Peterſburg by the miniſters of her Imperial Majeſty.

"Their High Mightineſſes the States General of the United Provinces, alſo acceded to the ſaid convention on the 20th of November, 1780, and under the ſame conditions, for what concerns the articles of contraband, according to the treaties ſubſiſting between their High Mightineſſes and other powers, which ſaid convention has been ſigned at Peterſburg by their plenipotentiaries on the 5th of January, 1781, with the addition of the following article:

"XIII. For what concerns the command in chief of the naval forces, in caſe the ſquadrons or ſhips of war of the two high contracting parties ſhould happen to meet, or find it expedient to form a junction, it is hereby ſtipulated and agreed, that the ſame ſhall be obeyed as is cuſtomary between crowned ſovereigns and the republic of Holland."

Though the relation of every loſs we ſuſtained, or every advantage we acquired during the courſe of this war, is not a part of, as it could not be comprehended in, our plan, we cannot omit mentioning, that the ſucceſſes of Sir George Brydges Rodney, at the commencement of this year, ſeemed to indicate a return of that naval glory, which had ſo long been the boaſt of the Engliſh name, but from a variety of untoward circumſtances, had, for ſome time, been unhappily obſcured.

On the 8th of January, 1780, Sir George Brydges Rodney, with the fleet under his command, deſtined for the relief of Gibraltar, fell in with and took 22 ſail of Spaniſh ſhips. They proved to be a convoy which had ſailed from St. Sebaſtians on the firſt of the ſame month, and were under the protection of ſeven ſhips and veſſels of war belonging to the Royal Company of the Caraccas. On the 16th, the ſame fortunate and brave admiral met with ſtill more ſignal ſucceſs, when he engaged, near Cape St. Vincent, a Spaniſh fleet of eleven ſhips of the line and two frigates, under the command of Don Juan de Langara; of this fleet he took four of the largeſt ſhips, with the Spaniſh admiral, and drove two on ſhore, one of which was recovered; and, in the engagement, the San Domingo, of 70 guns and 600 men, blew up; the reſt, with the frigates, after being much damaged in the action, made their eſcape. The five men of war which were taken, were very fine ſhips, and being completely refitted and manned, became a very glorious addition to the Britiſh navy. The more immediate conſequences of this important victory, were the complete relief of Gibraltar and of Minorca, both of which, till this event, had been conſidered with no common apprehenſion.

The firſt buſineſs of importance in which the Houſe of Commons engaged after the Chriſtmas receſs, was the deliberating on a bill brought in by Lord North, in conformity to the propoſitions which he had before ſtated to the Houſe, for allowing "the trade between Ireland and the Britiſh colonies and plantations in America and the Weſt Indies, and the Britiſh ſettlements on the coaſt of Africa, to be carried on, in like manner, as it is now carried on between Great Britain and the ſaid colonies and ſettlements." On former occaſions, when queſtions of commerce reſpecting Ireland had been in agitation, the ſeveral manufacturing towns of the kingdom had applied to Parliament and urged their ſituation, as an objection to the matters then under diſcuſſion; pleading, that in reliance on the good faith of Parliament they had put themſelves into that ſituation, and that, therefore, it would be unjuſt to grant to Ireland what muſt materially affect their intereſt. But the caſe was now altered; it was no longer a queſtion of commerce, but a queſtion of great national importance: for which reaſon, the ſeveral places in the kingdom, likely to be affected by what had already been done, and what more remained to be done for Ireland, ſeemed to have thought it decent and dutiful to remain

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1780 ſilent, to with-hold all oppoſition, and to truſt altogether to the wiſdom and juſtice of Parliament. This bill, therefore, paſſed with very little oppoſing animadverſion.

It may not be improper to mention here, that the reſolutions, &c. of the Engliſh Parliament, previous to the Chriſtmas receſs, were received with the utmoſt gratitude and applauſe in Ireland. On the 20th of December, 1779, the following reſolutions were unanimouſly agreed to in the Houſe of Commons of that kingdom. "Reſolved, That the exportation from this kingdom of its woollen and other manufactures, to all foreign places, will materially tend to relieve its diſtreſſes, increaſe its wealth, promote its proſperity, and thereby advance the welfare of Great Britain, and the common ſtrength, wealth and commerce of the Britiſh empire." "Reſolved, That a liberty for this kingdom to trade with the Britiſh colonies in America and the Weſt Indies, and the Britiſh ſettlements on the coaſt of Africa, in like manner as trade is carried on between Great Britain and the ſaid colonies and ſettlements, will be productive of very great commercial benefits, will be a moſt affectionate mark of the regard and attention of Great Britain to our diſtreſſes, and will give new vigour to the zeal of his Majeſty's brave and loyal people of Ireland, to ſtand forth in ſupport of his Majeſty's perſon and government, and the intereſt, the honour and the dignity of the Britiſh empire." The ſame reſolutions were agreed to on the following day, in the Houſe of Peers.

The three propoſitions to allow Ireland a free export of her wool, woollens and wool flocks; a free exportation of glaſs, &c. and a freedom of trade with the Britiſh plantations on certain conditions, were founded on the baſis of an equality of cuſtoms and taxes upon an equal and unreſtrained trade.

Though a free and unlimited right to trade with the whole world, might be claimed on the part of Ireland; yet the Iriſh did not, nor could they pretend to, claim any right, directly or indirectly with reſpect to any part of the Britiſh colonies or plantations. But even admitting the claim of a free and unreſtrained trade, it could not but be beneficial to Ireland to preſerve its connections with Great Britain, and to poſſeſs a participation of its commercial intereſts. On the idea, indeed, of a natural and political connection, the Iriſh had been rather harſhly and impolitically treated, ſince the reſtoration: before that event, they enjoyed every commercial benefit and advantage in common with England. The commerce, import and export, was held equally by both kingdoms till the reign of Charles II. Even the act of navigation, the great foundation of our plantation laws, placed England and Ireland upon exact terms of equality; nor was it till two years after, that the firſt commercial reſtriction was laid upon Ireland; and that not directly, but by deductive interpretation. When the act firſt paſſed, there was a general governing clauſe, for giving bonds to perform the conditions of the act; but when the act was amended, in the fifteenth of Charles II. the word Ireland was omitted; from whence a concluſion was drawn, that the acts of the two preceding Parliaments (viz. the twelfth, thirteenth, and fourteenth of Charles II.) were thereby repealed; though it was as clearly expreſſed in thoſe acts, as it was poſſible for words to convey, that ſhips built in Ireland, navigated by the people thereof, were deemed Britiſh, and qualified to trade to and from the Britiſh plantations; and that ſhips built in Ireland and navigated by his Majeſty's ſubjects of Ireland, were entitled to the ſame abatements and privileges to which importers and exporters of goods in Britiſh built ſhips were entitled. However, Ireland had been as much excluded from trading with the Britiſh colonies as France and Spain, or any other foreign nation, in the way of a direct export or import trade, excepting in a few trifling inſtances.

Some

A. D. 1780 Some of the reſtraints reſpecting Ireland, in the reign of Charles II. were ſuppoſed to have originated in a diſlike or jealouſy of the growing power of the then Duke of Ormond, who, from his great eſtate and poſſeſſions in Ireland, was very naturally ſuppoſed to have a perſonal intereſt in the proſperity of that kingdom. So far, indeed, was this ſpirit carried, whether from perſonal enmity to the Duke of Ormond, from narrow prejudices, or blind policy, that the Parliament of England paſſed a law to prohibit the importation of Iriſh lean cattle.

One object of the propoſitions evidently was to reſtore to Ireland the wool export and woollen manufacture. In 1692, both Houſes of the Engliſh Parliament addreſſed the crown, recommending a kind of compact between both kingdoms; the terms of which were, that England ſhould enjoy the woollen manufacture excluſively, and Ireland the linen. But, however ſolemnly this compact might be obſerved by the latter kingdom, the truth was, that England carried on the linen manufacture to full as great an extent as Ireland, while the monopoly of the woollens remained totally with England. The firſt ſtep Ireland took in conſequence of this compact was, to lay an export duty upon wool and woollens of all kinds, equal to a prohibition; and when that act expired, for it was but a temporary one by way of experiment, the Britiſh Parliament, without conſulting that of Ireland, by the tenth and eleventh of William III. paſſed a ſimilar act, and made it perpetual. By that act, and one or two that followed, a total end was put to the woollen trade of Ireland.

Upon an average of ſix years, from 1766 to 1772, the export to Ireland was ſomewhat more than two millions; and, in the ſucceeding ſix years, ending in 1778, about as much more; one half nearly Britiſh manufacture or produce; the other half, certificated articles, of which this country was the medium of conveyance. Out of the native produce, which was ſomething more than 900,000l. per annum, on the average, only 200,000l. were woollens; ſo that in this light, ſuppoſing every thing that any man could wiſh to conclude from the fact, it would be very far from ſound policy, to riſk a million export of native produce for a woollen export of 200,000l. Beſides, the woollen manufacture of Ireland muſt, for a long time, continue in a ſtate of infancy; and though cloths were manufactured there in a ſufficient quantity to anſwer a conſiderable part of the home conſumption, yet it could be hardly expected, that Ireland would be able to rival Great Britain at the foreign markets, when, after the expence of land carriage, freight, inſurance and factorage, ſhe is able to underſell Ireland in her own markets, on the very ſpot, though aided by the advantage of low wages and taxes.

As to the linen trade, however proſperous it may appear, it was ſtill capable of great improvement. In a pamphlet written by that excellent politician Sir William Temple, the idea was firſt ſuggeſted of extending and improving the linen manufacture of Ireland, and gave riſe to the compact which has juſt been mentioned. It was, indeed, an opinion which appeared to be entertained by many, that as this compact was now to be diſſolved, and the Iriſh were to be permitted to enjoy a free export of woollens, the bounties paid on the importation into England, of certain ſpecies of fabrics of Iriſh linens ought to be diſcontinued. This, however, would have been a very impolitic meaſure, becauſe it appears, from the moſt accurate enquiries, that the Britiſh bounties had operated as a great encouragement to the Iriſh linen manufacture, and as the ſum appropriated annually to that purpoſe, had never, in the higheſt year, amounted to much above 13,000l.

This law, of courſe, put an end to the compact between England and Ireland, reſpecting the woollen and linen manufactures: but, as a more liberal ſpirit had manifeſted itſelf on both ſides of the water, it was natural to expect that both kingdoms would be contented. Ireland would

1780 would never be able to rival England in the fine woollen fabrics; while the Iriſh, manufacturing their own wool, would prevent the contraband export of the raw material to France. Beſides, whatever proves a benefit to Ireland, muſt, ſooner or later, be of very great advantage to Great Britain; and, by the regulations propoſed under theſe new laws, the commercial connection between the two kingdoms, would be put upon a more equitable and ſolid footing.

Ireland had, alſo, been very injuriouſly treated reſpecting the glaſs manufacture. Previous to an act of the nineteenth of George II. Ireland imported glaſs from other countries, and, at length, began to make ſome progreſs in the lower branches of the manufacture herſelf: but, by that act, the Iriſh were prohibited from importing any kind of glaſs, other than the manufacture of Great Britain; and it was alſo enacted, that no glaſs of the manufacture of Ireland ſhould be exported, or ſo much as laden on any horſe or carriage, with intent to be ſo exported. This act, indeed, was much complained of in Ireland, and with great reaſon. It was, therefore, deſigned by another of the propoſitions, to take away the ground of this complaint; and, thereby, indicate a ready wiſh to remove the moſt diſtant appearance of oppreſſion, prejudice, or ſelf intereſt, ariſing from a ſpirit of monopoly and commercial excluſion.

The third propoſition, and which was now carried into a law, of allowing Ireland a free trade to the Britiſh colonies and plantations in America and the Weſt Indies, was, certainly, of a very different nature from the two former. A trade with our colonies, of any kind, or of any extent from Ireland, muſt certainly be conſidered as a matter of favour to that kingdom. In no ſituation whatever, could ſhe ſet up a claim to a commercial intercourſe with the Britiſh colonies, which had been ſettled, eſtabliſhed and raiſed to their preſent ſtrength and opulence by the blood, treaſure and induſtry of Great Britain. By every principal of juſtice, of the law of nations, and the cuſtoms of the other powers of Europe who had ſettlements and diſtant dependencies, the mother country had an excluſive right to trade with, and to forbid all others from having any intercourſe with them. Such an excluſive right cannot be denied to be the very eſſence of colonization: for what nation would ſpend their blood and treaſure in eſtabliſhing a colony and protecting it in its infant ſtate, if other nations were afterwards to reap the advantages which were derived from their labour, hazard and expence? But though Great Britain had an undoubted right to reſtrain Ireland from trading with her colonies, it certainly would be the intereſt of the former to admit her ſiſter kingdom to a participation of her colony commerce. It is, ſurely, the intereſt and the duty of Great Britain to do every thing in her power which might tend to promote and enlarge the intereſts and commerce of Ireland, upon the broadeſt and moſt extenſive ground: and one of the moſt certain means of rendering that country uſeful to herſelf and truly valuable to this, was to open new ſources of commerce to her. The admitting Ireland to a participation of our trade with the colonies, was the moſt wiſe and prudent means of affording her relief; and it was that ſpecies of relief, which would more particularly convince her of the ſincere and affectionate deſire of Great Britain to render her rich, proſperous and happy. But as Ireland had now received an equal ſhare in the colony trade, an equality of taxes and duties upon the export and import was naturally included.— This was the moſt equitable ground on which the benefits and advantages now propoſed to be given to the Iriſh nation, could be either granted or expected; and to the Iriſh Parliament it was left to lay on thoſe taxes and duties, which would bring the Engliſh and Iriſh commodities to market upon equal terms.

A. D. 1780 For ſome years paſt there had been a very ſpirited oppoſition to the meaſures of government in Parliament; but it had not hitherto been much ſupported by the people without doors. Great diſcontents, however, appeared at preſent throughout the nation; the enormous expences of the American war, and the burthens it occaſioned, ſeemed to have awakened the people from their accuſtomed confidence in government. The moſt impartial men, and ſuch as had not the leaſt prejudice againſt the miniſters, could not but perceive, that there had been a very great and indefenſible profuſion of the public money; and, at a time, when the people were loaded with taxes, and when the commerce of the nation was conſiderably diminiſhed. This ſubject, therefore, began now to awaken the attention both of the inhabitants of the metropolis and of different counties in the kingdom. In a meeting of the common council of London, held at Guildhall, on the 16th of December in the laſt year, the thanks of the corporation were voted to thoſe Peers, who ſupported a motion in the Houſe of Lords for promoting national œconomy, and a reduction of the civil liſt.

On the 30th of December following, there was a very numerous and reſpectable meeting of the freeholders of the county of York, who were called together for the purpoſe of preparing a petition to the Houſe of Commons, for ſome reformation in the public expenditure. The freeholders, who were aſſembled on the occaſion, conſiſted of gentlemen of the largeſt property in that opulent county, and ſeveral of the nobility, and many members of Parliament were preſent. They appeared to be almoſt unanimouſly of opinion, that it was indiſpenſably neceſſary the people ſhould exert themſelves, in order to promote a plan of national œconomy, and to procure ſome alleviation of the public burthens. They, therefore, agreed to a petition to the Houſe of Commons on that ſubject, in which they declared, that, being alarmed at the diminiſhed reſources and growing burthens of this country, and convinced that rigid frugality was indiſpenſably neceſſary in every department of the ſtate, they obſerved, with grief, that notwithſtanding the impoveriſhed condition of the nation, much public money had been improvidently ſquandered, and that many individuals enjoyed ſinecure places, efficient places with exorbitant emoluments and penſions, unmerited by public ſervices, &c. from whence the crown had acquired a great and unconſtitutional influence, which, if not checked, might prove very injurious to the liberties of this country: they further repreſented, that, until effectual meaſures were taken to redreſs theſe oppreſſive grievances, the grant of any additional ſum of public money, beyond the produce of the preſent taxes, would be injurious to the rights and property of the people, and derogatory from the honour of Parliament; and they earneſtly requeſted the Houſe, that, before any new burthens were laid upon this country, effectual meaſures might be taken by that Houſe to inquire into and correct the groſs abuſes in the expenditure of the public money; to reduce all exorbitant emoluments; to reſcind and aboliſh all ſinecure places and unmerited penſions; and to appropriate the produce to the neceſſities of the ſtate in ſuch manner, as to the wiſdom of Parliament ſhould ſeem meet. Beſides the petition to the Houſe of Commons, it was alſo reſolved at this meeting of the Yorkſhire freeholders, that a committee of ſixty-one gentlemen ſhould be appointed, to carry on the neceſſary correſpondence for effectually promoting the object of the petition, and to prepare a plan of an aſſociation, on legal and conſtitutional grounds, to ſupport that laudable reform, which was ſo eſſentially neceſſary to the welfare of the kingdom.

The example of the county of York was followed by other counties and corporations. On the 7th of January, the county of Middleſex met, and framed a petition of a ſimilar nature to that of which we have already given the purport. Theſe counties were quickly followed by

1780 thoſe of Hertford, Suſſex, Huntingdon, Surry, Cumberland, Bedford, Eſſex, Somerſet, Glouceſter, Wilts, Dorſet, Devon, Norfolk, Berks, Bucks, Nottingham, Kent, Northumberland, Suffolk, Hereford, Cambridge and Derby: the Welſh counties of Denbigh, Flint and Brecknock, likewiſe petitioned, as did the cities of London, Weſtminſter, York, Briſtol, Gloceſter and Hereford, with the towns of Nottingham, Reading, Cambridge, Bridgewater and Newcaſtle upon Tyne. The county of Northampton declined petitioning, but voted reſolutions and inſtructions to their repreſentatives, upon the ſame ground, and including the purport of the petitions as a previous meaſure.

It muſt not, indeed, be ſuppoſed, that in all theſe counties and towns, the ſpirit was alike, or that the ſame unanimity prevailed. But there were few, in which any direct or ſucceſsful oppoſition was made to the meaſure; ſo that it might be conſidered as agreeing, in general, with the ſenſe of thoſe places.

In the month of March there were ſeveral meetings in London of deputies from the committees of moſt of the petitioning counties, as ſome of them petitioned without appointing committees, when a memorial was prepared and publiſhed containing reaſons for a plan of national aſſociation, to recommend which circular letters were diſperſed throughout the kingdom. Theſe deputies alſo came to ſeveral reſolutions, relative to the ſteps which ſhould be taken by the people in order to free the Parliament from corruption, and to procure a redreſs of the national grievances. One of theſe was, that there ſhould be ſent to the Houſe of Commons, in addition to the preſent repreſentatives of counties, a number of members, not leſs than one hundred, to be choſen, in due proportion, by the ſeveral counties of the kingdom of Great Britain; and that the people ſhould ſupport thoſe candidates only, at the enſuing general election, who ſhould engage to vote for this and other reforming regulations. Theſe exertions of the people ſeemed, at firſt, to promiſe ſome important effects; but they were, in a great degree, prevented, and the attempts of theſe popular meetings and aſſociations very much obſtructed, by the ſeveral important events which followed.

It is undoubtedly the inherent privilege of the people of England, to petition either Houſe of Parliament, or any branch of the legiſlature. The petitions which we have juſt mentioned, (and which being a prominent feature of the year which is now under our conſideration, we could not but mention) proceeded from a moſt reſpectable body of the people, from upwards of an hundred thouſand electors of this kingdom; and ſo far as they were confined to the real objects of redreſs, not only deſerved alleviation, but every poſſible attention in the mode of adminiſtering it. At the ſame time, the committees and aſſociations which ſprung from, and indeed accompanied many of them, will not, by any means, meet with our approbation. If they were not illegal, they were extremely improper, and might have terminated in conſequences which every good man, upon cool reflection, would wiſh to avoid. They appear to have had alſo this evil tendency, that they took off from the weight of the petitions in that Houſe; becauſe they pointed to other meaſures of redreſs, while they were ſeeking it at the hands of their repreſentatives aſſembled in Parliament; thereby holding out motives of compulſion, and rendering that an act of neceſſity, which ought to be the effect of conſideration and conviction.

As the French, in the courſe of the preceding year, had made themſelves maſters of the iſlands of St. Vincents and Grenada, and had, at this time, a very powerful fleet in the Weſt Indies, the merchants, planters, and other perſons poſſeſſed of property in the Weſt India Iſlands, were naturally alarmed, more particularly, as the important iſland of Jamaica was apprehended

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1780 apprehended to be in the greateſt danger. Accordingly a petition was preſented on the 10th of February, to the Houſe of Commons from the planters, merchants, and other perſons intereſted in that iſland; and, on the 21ſt of the ſame month, a ſimilar petition was preſented to the Houſe of Lords.

In conſidering theſe petitions, &c. it was aſſerted, after an animated repreſentation of the commercial importance of that iſland to Great Britain, and the patriotic attachment of its inhabitants to the mother country, that Jamaica had been neglected for ſeveral years, both in reſpect of its internal ſafety and external protection and defence; that in the year 1773, which was previous to the breaking out of the American troubles, a petition had been preſented to government, ſtating, that the cultivation and commerce of that iſland had been greatly improved and increaſed within the preceding thirty or thirty-five years; that the number of blacks had been proportionably increaſed, and that the white inhabitants had been greatly on the decreaſe; that in conſequence of ſuch a decreaſe of the white inhabitants, and an increaſe of ſlaves, the internal ſafety of the iſland required a larger military force than they then had: and that they were well founded in this opinion, appeared from an inſurrection among the blacks, which had been lately quelled, but which they had reaſon to fear might break out afreſh: that the whole military force on the iſland, conſiſted of but two battalions of 300 men each; whilſt the French and Spaniards had 10,000 regular troops at St. Domingo and Hiſpaniola; and that it was the opinion of the inhabitants of Jamaica, that two battalions or regiments of 1,000 men each, at leaſt, was the ſmalleſt force that would be ſufficient to protect the iſland from inſurrections within, or attacks from without. Of this application, however, ſo ſtrongly ſupported by the real ſtate of the iſland, no notice appeared to have been taken by government: on the contrary, two years after, inſtead of augmenting the defence of the iſland, the governor received an order to ſend one of the two battalions which were in Jamaica, to aſſiſt in carrying on the American war. The few troops which had been afterwards ſent, were certainly very inſufficient for the defence of the iſland, while the naval force given to protect it was proportionably inadequate. A letter from General Dalling, the governor, confirmed the truth of this repreſentation, wherein he did not heſitate to declare his dread of a viſit from the Count D'Eſtaing, and to acknowledge, that if he was not ſtrongly reinforced, he deſpaired of being able to make an effectual reſiſtance. It was ſaid, on the part of government, that troops, ſhips and military ſtores of all kinds had been ſent, from time to time, to Jamaica; and that Lord Cornwallis, with a land force of 4,000 men, had been embarked at New York for that iſland, accompanied by four men of war of the line, but that he received counter-orders, when it was known that D'Eſtaing was gone to attack Savannah. This was undoubtedly true; but there is too much reaſon to believe, that had not Count D'Eſtaing's troops been extremely afflicted with ſickneſs, he would have been in poſſeſſion of Jamaica before Lord Cornwallis could have arrived to defend it. In ſhort, from the parliamentary diſcuſſion of theſe petitions it appeared, that the iſland in queſtion had been neglected; but that, nevertheleſs, the miniſtry had paid every attention to its preſervation in their power, conſiſtent with the unfortunate, but predominant plan of proſecuting the American war. It ſhould, indeed, be mentioned, that a proteſt againſt the Jamaica petition had been formed by ſeveral Weſt India merchants; but they were generally conſidered, at the time, as perſons who felt it to be their intereſt to forward the views of, and to ſtand well with government.

Though we cannot, by any means, enter at large into the ſubject, it would be highly improper to paſs over the plan of Mr. Edmund Burke, which he, at this time, offered to Parliament,

A. D. 1780 ment, for a reform in the conſtitution of ſeveral parts of the public œconomy. This plan he communicated to the Houſe in a ſpeech of great length, replete with information, and embelliſhed with all the beauties of eloquence. That gentleman, when he conceived the deſign of ſubmitting to the Houſe of Commons ſome plan of reform, found it eſſentially neceſſary to take a very comprehenſive view of the ſtate of this country, to make a ſurvey of its juriſdictions, its eſtates, and its eſtabliſhments, and in order to guide him in his propoſed plan of reform, he laid down the ſeven following fundamental rules.

Firſt, That all juriſdictions which furniſh more matter of expence, more temptation to oppreſſion, or more means and inſtruments of corrupt influence than advantage to juſtice or political adminiſtration, ought to be aboliſhed.

Secondly, That all public eſtates which are more ſubſervient to the purpoſes of vexing, and influencing thoſe who hold under them, and to the expences of receipt and management, than of benefit to the revenue, ought upon every principle, both of revenue and of freedom, to be diſpoſed of.

Thirdly, That all offices which bring more charge than proportional advantage to the ſtate, and all offices which may be engrafted on others, uniting and ſimplifying their duties, ought, in the firſt caſe, to be taken away, and in the ſecond, to be conſolidated.

Fourthly, That all ſuch offices ought to be aboliſhed as obſtruct the proſpect of the general ſuperintendant of finance; which deſtroy his ſuperintendancy; which diſable him from foreſeeing and providing for charges as they may occur; from preventing expence in its origin, checking it in its progreſs, or ſecuring its application to its proper purpoſes.

Fifthly, That it is proper to eſtabliſh an invariable order in all payments, which will prevent partiality, which will give preference to their ſervices, not according to the importunity of the demandant, but the rank and order of their utility or their juſtice.

Sixthly, That it is right to reduce every eſtabliſhment, and every part of an eſtabliſhment, as nearly as poſſible to certainty; the life of all order and good management.

Seventhly, That all ſubordinate treaſuries, as the nurſeries of miſmanagement, and as naturally drawing to themſelves as much money as they can, keeping it as long as they can, and accounting for it as late as they can, ought to be diſſolved; they having a tendency to perplex and diſtract the public accounts, and to excite a ſuſpicion of government, even beyond the extent of their abuſe.

Such were the principles under whoſe guidance and authority this plan was to proceed; but ſo various was its objects, and ſo unſucceſsful was it in its progreſs, that we ſhall confine ourſelves to the only point of conſequence obtained by it, which was the abolition of the Board of Trade and Plantations. The arguments uſed on the occaſion were, in general, unanſwerable, and proved effectual to the purpoſe.

It was aſſerted, that the Board of Trade and Plantations had not only never been of the leaſt ſervice to the commerce of this country, but that trade and manufactures had, at times, ſuffered very materially from their injudicious interference. Indeed, it does not appear that this board had been of any uſe to the colonies, as colonies. The flouriſhing ſettlements of New England, of Virginia and of Maryland, as well as all our wealthy colonies in the Weſt Indies, were of a date prior to the firſt board of Charles the Second. Pennſylvania and Carolina were ſettled in the interval between the extinction of the firſt, and the formation of the ſecond Board of Trade and Plantations in the reign of William the Third. Two colonies alone owed their origin to that board; Georgia and Nova Scotia. Georgia, till lately, had made a very ſlow progreſs;

A. D. 1780 progreſs; and never made any progreſs at all, till it had wholly got rid of all the regulations which the Board of Trade had moulded into its original conſtitution. That colony had certainly coſt the nation very large ſums of money; whereas, the colonies which had never been foſtered by the Board of Trade, had never coſt the nation a ſhilling: nay, the colony of Georgia, to the very laſt, poſſeſſed an eſtabliſhment paid by England, as it never had been able to take upon itſelf the expence of its proper government. The province of Nova Scotia alſo, had ſtood Great Britain in no leſs than 700,000l. without being able to ſupport thoſe offices which conſtituted its civil government. Nor did the Board of Trade, &c. appear to be conſidered as poſſeſſing the wiſdom and authority of commercial erudition: for, when points of the greateſt importance to commerce were agitated in Parliament, no particular requeſt was ever made to this board to aſſiſt the deliberations; nor did any of the regulations in matters relating to trade and commerce, which, for ſome years paſt, had been ſo numerous, derive their origin or their improvement from it. Of the ſeveral Eaſt India bills which had been ſucceſſively produced ſince 1767, not one of them had originated there: when the acts were framed which were preludes to the American war, or attendant on its commencement, acts replete with commercial regulations, (viz. the Intercourſe Bill; the Prohibitory Bill; the Fiſhery Bill;) in none of theſe was the Board of Trade conſulted. Even when the acts were framed which gave a free trade to Ireland with independent nations, and an equal trade to our own colonies, we do not find that this board had any official concern whatever. Upon the ſtrength of ſuch arguments as theſe, aided by the very forcible ſuggeſtions that it was kept up for the purpoſe of increaſing certain undue influence, the Board of Trade and Plantations was aboliſhed on a diviſion of the Houſe, when the numbers were, 207 for, and 199 againſt, that meaſure.

On the 13th of March, Lord North moved for leave to bring in a bill to appoint and enable commiſſioners to take, ſtate, and make up the public accounts; to aſcertain what balances were in the hands of public officers; to diſcover what defects exiſted in the mode of making up the accounts at the Exchequer; and to report to the Houſe what they ſhould deem the beſt method of removing them. This bill was directed to three different objects: the firſt was to inform that Houſe and the public of the real ſtate of the accounts of the kingdom, that the nation might ſee in what manner the great ſums which were granted by Parliament had been diſpoſed of. The ſecond was, by aſcertaining the outſtanding balances, to enable government to compel payment; and the laſt, by diſcovering the defects, to prevent ſuch inconveniencies in time to come. The perſons appointed to fill the commiſſion were not to be members of the Houſe of Commons, nor to enjoy any place of profit or emolument under the crown. This bill paſſed into a law, but not without conſiderable oppoſition, not only as to its general principle, but alſo to its particular arrangements. A parliamentary committee of accounts was by many thought to be much preferable to the mode propoſed. That has, however, anſwered the expectations of thoſe who ſupported it, and from the very able manner in which it has been carried into effect by the gentlemen appointed to the commiſſion, it has afforded univerſal ſatisfaction to the nation.

A bill for excluding contractors, under certain reſtrictions, from ſitting in the Houſe of Commons, had met with conſiderable oppoſition, and was at length rejected, the preceding ſeſſion in that Houſe; but, in the preſent ſeſſions it paſſed in the Houſe of Commons, and was, of courſe, carried up to the Houſe of Lords. There, however, it met with a very different fate. It was there contended, that the principle of the bill was erroneous, becauſe it went

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1780 to disfranchiſe a moſt reſpectable body of men, and deprive them of the moſt valuable object of ambition, that of repreſenting their fellow citizens in the Parliament of a free country, without any charge being produced againſt them of guilt or criminality. That government could not wiſh, according to any principle of juſtice, to exclude merchants of great property merely becauſe they happened to be engaged, fairly and honeſtly, in contracts with government, and unleſs proofs were brought to the contrary, no one has a right to ſuppoſe that ſuch contracts were otherwiſe than fair and beneficial; and ſhould they be proved, at any time, to be founded in fraud and impoſition, the laws had already provided proper puniſhment for public as well as private delinquency. That it would deter all reputable merchants, &c. from ſupplying our fleets and armies, upon any terms, with thoſe neceſſaries, which it would frequently happen that no others could furniſh; and that it would throw ſuch an important buſineſs entirely into the hands of men, who either wanted means and ability to fulfil their contracts, or inclination and honeſty to fulfil them properly. In ſhort, that it was formed either to baniſh the mercantile intereſt from the Houſe of Commons, or to place the exiſtence of our fleets and armies in the hands of beggars and bankrupts. Upon theſe and ſimilar arguments the bill was finally rejected.

On the 21ſt of March, Lord North moved, That notice be given, that the capital ſtock or debt of 4,200,000l. and all arrears of annuity due and payable in reſpect thereof from the public to the United Company of Merchants trading to the Eaſt Indies, ſhould be paid on the fifth of April, 1783, agreeably to the power of redemption in the act. His lordſhip obſerved, that he had, for ſome time paſt, expected, that he ſhould have received propoſals from the Eaſt India Company for a renewal of their charter; but as none had come, he thought it his duty to inform the Houſe, that in conformity to certain ſtipulations, in various acts of Parliament, the Eaſt India Company's charter would have three years to come, from the 25th of March enſuing; but as the ſtile had been altered ſince the bargain was originally made, the new ſtile changed the day, and carried it forward to the 5th of April; from which day, therefore, the company had three years right to an excluſive trade to the Eaſt Indies, but no more, provided the Parliament gave notice to pay them off the 4,200,000l. which was due to them from the public on or after that day. Lord North acknowledged, that he had ſeen certain propoſitions, which he had thought might have been the baſis of a treaty for a new charter: but, on the directors referring them to a general court, they had been rejected by a majority of the proprietors, and other propoſitions had been framed and ſent to him, which he thought were by no means ſufficiently advantageous, nor ſuch as, in his opinion, the public ought to accede to. He ſtated the right of the public either to the whole of the territorial acquiſitions and revenues; or, if the company were allowed to hold the excluſive trade longer, to a participation of the profits: and remarked, that as the company had not offered him ſuch propoſitions, as appeared fit for him to treat upon, it was his duty to ſtate the matter to the Houſe, and to make the motion that he now did; and which, after ſome debate, was at length carried.

This motion does not appear, as it was ſuggeſted by ſome who oppoſed it, to have been intended as a menace; but merely to put in a claim, on behalf of the public, to the reverſion of a right which undoubtedly belonged to them, at the very moment when it was eſpecially proper that it ſhould be formally made. It ſhould be conſidered, if notice had not been properly given at this time, the company would have had a right to hold in their poſſeſſion that, which ought, in three years, to revert to the public, longer than they ought to hold it, and longer than it

was

A. D. 1780 was intended they ſhould hold it, unleſs their charter were renewed. It certainly could not be the deſire of government to break with the company, or to force them to the neceſſity of a diſſolution; but, at the ſame time, the company could not imagine that the public lay at their mercy. The public had an undoubted right to expect great reſources from the company, and from the territorial acquiſitions in India: if the company, therefore, ſhould have been ſo inconſiderate as not to come to a fair bargain with the public, ſome plan muſt have been adopted by government, to remedy the evil threatened to the revenue.

From the different debates which took place at the India Houſe, reſpecting the propoſitions that had paſt between the Court of Directors and the Treaſury Board, relative to the renewal of the charter, the following appeared to be the ſituation of the company. The ſtock was valued at 3,200,000l.; bonds and other debts, 1,800,000l.; total, 5,000,000l. Their property in India was ſtated to exceed 13,000,000l.; the government debt, 4,200,000l. and their effects in England would, it was ſuppoſed, make up at leaſt 20,000,000l. So that if the company had broke up at the approaching term of the charter, the probability of which had been hinted at by the miniſter himſelf, the proprietors would have divided 400l. ſterling, at leaſt, for 100l. ſtock, after paying the bond and other creditors, beſides the deduction of their capital.

Among the many important matters which were propoſed and agitated during the courſe of this buſy and active ſeſſion of Parliament, an attempt was made, by General Conway, to forward a reconciliation between Great Britain and America by other means than the ſword. For this purpoſe, that gentleman, on the 5th of May, made a motion for leave to bring in a bill, for quieting the troubles then reigning in the Britiſh American colonies, and for enabling his Majeſty to appoint commiſſioners, with full powers to treat, and conclude upon terms of conciliation with the ſaid colonies. The purport of this bill was to hold out terms which the Americans at large, or any particular province might accept when they would, and be immediately in his Majeſty's peace. But, as it was oppoſed by the friends of adminiſtration, as inadequate to the object, and not ſupported by the gentlemen on the other ſide with any great degree of zeal or animation, it was rejected by a conſiderable majority.

The firſt abilities and moſt powerful eloquence of this country had been employed in Parliament, to obtain a reformation of the public expenditure, and a diminution of the influence of the crown, and ſome leading points had been gained in both. Theſe efforts in the ſenate had received conſiderable countenance and ſupport from the county meetings and aſſociations. But any beneficial effects which might have been expected from ſuch exertions of ſome of the ableſt men in the kingdom, were, in a great degree, prevented by meetings of another kind, which occaſioned very unexpected events, and chiefly took their riſe from ſome of the weakeſt and moſt unenlightened men the nation could produce. We refer to the Proteſtant Aſſociation, to the tumultuous meetings which originated from it, and to riots and conflagrations that took place in the metropolis, and threw a damp upon all aſſociations, even for the moſt conſtitutional purpoſes; excepting thoſe only of a military kind, which were afterwards formed for the public defence.

In 1778, an act was paſſed, "For relieving his Majeſty's Subjects, profeſſing the Romiſh Religion, from certain Penalties and Diſabilities impoſed upon them in the eleventh and twelfth Years of the Reign of King William III." This act paſſed unanimouſly; it being the general opinion of liberal minded men of all parties, that the laws againſt the Papiſts were abundantly too rigorous; and that in an enlightened age, in which the principles of toleration ſo much prevailed, they were a diſgrace to our ſtatute books. Nor did the act at firſt appear

1780 to excite any great alarm among perſons of any claſs. But though the act was far enough from granting a legal toleration to the Papiſts, and only relieved them from ſome particular penalties, as they now thought the government inclined to be more indulgent to them than formerly, they began to take ſomewhat greater liberties than they had hitherto done in the public exerciſe of their religion. Hence it was, that, by degrees, a number of perſons in London, and ſome other parts of the kingdom, began to expreſs great apprehenſions of Popery, and to exclaim againſt the late act, by which they thought it was countenanced and ſupported. Meetings of theſe zealous perſons were held from time to time in London: they formed themſelves into a body under the title of the Proteſtant Aſſociation; and Lord George Gordon, whoſe conduct had been, for ſome time, marked with a fanatic peculiarity, was elected to be their preſident. The object of this Aſſociation was to obtain a repeal of the late act in favour of the Papiſts. The members of it were, indeed, chiefly diſtinguiſhed by zeal, by bigotry and by ignorance; they were, principally, Methodiſts and bigotted Calviniſts of the lower ranks of life; and no perſons of liberal ſentiments, of any party, appeared to have any connection with them. They became, however, very numerous; a petition to Parliament was framed, for a repeal of the late act, the utmoſt pains were employed to procure ſubſcriptions to it, and it was reſolved, that it ſhould be attended by great numbers of the petitioners in perſon, who were accordingly invited, by a public advertiſement, ſigned by Lord George Gordon, to meet in St. George's Fields, on the ſecond day of June, for that purpoſe. Accordingly, on that day, 50,000 perſons are ſuppoſed to have aſſembled, from whence they proceeded, with much regularity and order, to the Houſe of Commons, where their petition was preſented by their preſident. But no ſooner were they arrived at the place of their deſtination, and had filled up all the ſtreets and avenues to both Houſes of Parliament, than they began to exerciſe the authority derived from their numbers, by treating the members, eſpecially of the Houſe of Lords, with great indignity; ſome of them narrowly eſcaping with their lives. In the mean time, the author and leader of this ſedition, having obtained leave, in the Houſe of Commons, to bring up the petition, afterwards moved for its being taken into immediate conſideration. This motion occaſioned a debate; but, notwithſtanding the dangers which menaced them, the Commons continued immoveable in their determination to oppoſe the petition. Of 200 members, then preſent in the Houſe, ſix only voted for it; the reſt, with a ſpirit that reflected the higheſt honour both on their individual and public character, reſiſted it with the diſdain it ſo highly merited.

In the mean time the mob, on the arrival of the guards, who had been ſent for on the occaſion, had diſperſed itſelf into various parts of the town. Among other outrages, they demoliſhed two Romiſh chapels belonging to foreign miniſters, and openly vented the moſt terrible menaces againſt all people of that perſuaſion.

For ſeveral ſucceeding days the metropolis ſeemed to be at the mercy of lawleſs bands of rioters, and exhibited a ſpectacle of calamity and horror, that has no parallel among the modern effects of civil commotion. It is ſaid, that fires were ſeen blazing in thirty-ſix different parts from one ſpot. The great gaol of Newgate, the priſons of the King's Bench and the Fleet, the New Bridewell in St. George's Fields, a very large diſtillery in Holborn, with many private houſes, all being in a ſtate of conflagration, preſented ſpectacles of the moſt ſhocking nature. The Bank itſelf, that grand ſupport of public credit and national commerce, was alſo attacked at two different periods, and fortunately for this country, was ſo well guarded as to be attacked in vain. An univerſal panic ſeemed to have ſeized the inhabitants, all buſineſs

A. D. 1780 was ſuſpended, and they ſubmitted to the outrages committed on their property and themſelves, as to a victorious army. At length, large bodies of troops arrived from different parts of the country, and, by applying the neceſſary vigour of the military arm, a ſtop was put to the progreſs of the rioters; and, on the afternoon of the eighth of June, people began to recover a little from their conſternation. On this day the Houſe of Commons met; but although the rioters were quelled, it was immediately noticed that the city of Weſtminſter was under martial law, and they accordingly adjourned to the nineteenth.

It would certainly be very unjuſt to impute to the Proteſtant Aſſociation the whole of the miſchief that enſued, or to ſuppoſe that they foreſaw the calamities to which they gave occaſion. But though this be admitted, it is evident that it was their wretched bigotry to which theſe unhappy ſcenes owed their origin; and that the members of that aſſociation manifeſted a ſpirit the very reverſe of real and enlightened Proteſtants, and diſgraceful to the national character. Such an exhibition of bigotry in England was alſo the more diſhonourable, becauſe the preſent age is much enlightened on the ſubject of toleration; and even Papiſts acknowledge the pernicious tendency of intolerance, and manifeſt a more liberal ſpirit in various parts of Europe. Some, indeed, have ſuppoſed that theſe diſorders were the reſult of a premeditated deſign, and were conducted by men of reſolution, who acted in concert; and who, though under concealment, directed all the motions of the populace. Others ſuſpected that the emiſſaries of France were not idle during theſe commotions, and would not fail to promote all the miſchief of which they were capable. In ſhort, whatever foundations there might be for ſuſpicions or ſurmiſes of this or any other kind, there is ſcarce a doubt if theſe horrid ſcenes had laſted a few days longer, that all the glory and power of this country would have been conſumed in the flames of London, and that law, commerce, and religion would have been buried under the ruins of our metropolis.

As ſoon as this violent and unexpected commotion began to ſubſide, it was thought proper to ſecure Lord George Gordon.—He was arreſted, and committed cloſe priſoner to the Tower, after having undergone a long examination before the principal lords of the council.

On the 19th of June, the Parliament was opened, after this compulſory receſs, by a ſpeech from the throne, in which notice was taken that the outrages committed by bands of deſperate and abandoned men, had ſo overborne all civil authority, and threatened ſo directly the ſubverſion of all legal power, the deſtruction of all property, and the confuſion of every order in the ſtate, that his Majeſty found himſelf obliged, by every tie of duty and affection to his people, to ſuppreſs, in every part, thoſe rebellious inſurrections, and to provide for the public ſafety, by the moſt effectual and immediate application of the force entruſted to him by Parliament.—His Majeſty alſo added, that proper orders had been given for bringing the authors, abettors, and perpetrators of ſuch inſurrections, and of ſuch criminal acts, to ſpeedy trial, and to ſuch condign puniſhment as the laws preſcribed, and the vindication of public juſtice demanded, &c. The ſpeech was generally approved on all ſides, and the cuſtomary addreſſes carried without any oppoſition. Some animadverſion, however, paſſed in both Houſes upon the conduct of adminiſtration, with reſpect to the late diſturbances: the miſchiefs that had happened, and all the unhappy conſequences that might enſue, being directly charged to their neglect, in not calling forth the civil power in time; and to their delay, in not employing the military till it was too late. But the ſervices were ſo numerous, and the applications ſo continual, and from ſuch various quarters, for protection or aſſiſtance, that the troops at hand

A. D. 1780 do not appear to have been in any degree ſufficient to anſwer the demands, until the arrival of the regulars and militia from the country.

The following day brought on, in a committee of the whole Houſe, the conſideration of the ſeveral petitions praying for a repeal of the late bill, which had been made the occaſion of ſo much miſchief: but no repeal was propoſed upon thoſe petitions; as the conſequences apprehended from the bill were conſidered as merely viſionary. The queſtion was, however, very ſolemnly debated; and the firſt ſpeakers of both parties in the Houſe of Commons, greatly diſtinguiſhed themſelves in ſupporting not only the bill itſelf, but a much broader ſyſtem of toleration than that which ſupported it.

In order, however, to quiet the minds, and to remove the apprehenſions of ſuch well-meaning, but ill-informed perſons, as might be among the petitioners, reſolutions to the following purport were moved for by Lord Beauchamp, agreed to by the committee, and confirmed by the whole Houſe:—"That the effect and operation of the act paſſed in the 18th of his preſent Majeſty, for relieving his ſubjects profeſſing the Popiſh religion from certain penalties and reſtrictions impoſed on them by an act of the 11th and 12th of William the Third, have been miſrepreſented and miſunderſtood.—That the ſaid act of the 18th of his preſent Majeſty, does not repeal or alter, or in any manner invalidate the ſeveral ſtatutes made to prohibit the exerciſe of the Popiſh religion, previous to the ſtatute of the 11th and 12th of King William III.—That no eccleſiaſtical or ſpiritual juriſdiction or authority is given, by the ſaid act, to the Pope or the See of Rome.—That this Houſe does, and ever will, watch over the intereſts of the Proteſtant religion with the moſt unremitted attention; and that all attempts to ſeduce the youth of this kingdom from the eſtabliſhed church to Popery, are highly criminal, according to the laws in force, and are a proper ſubject of further regulation:—And that all endeavours to diſquiet the minds of the people, by miſrepreſenting the ſaid act of the 18th year of the reign of his preſent Majeſty, as inconſiſtent with the ſafety, or irreconcileable to the principles of the Proteſtant religion, have a manifeſt tendency to diſturb the public peace, to break the union neceſſary at this time, to bring diſhonour on the national character, to diſcredit the Proteſtant religion in the eyes of other nations, and to furniſh occaſion for the renewal of the perſecution of the Proteſtant brethren in other countries."

On the 28th of June, a bill, brought in by Sir George Saville, for preventing perſons profeſſing the Romiſh religion from teaching or educating the children of Proteſtants, was paſſed the Houſe of Commons: but the Houſe of Lords, influenced by a laudable ſpirit of toleration, and at the ſame time conſidering the bill as carrying the appearance of being forced upon them by outrage and menace, thought proper to reject it.

On the 8th of July, his Majeſty preceded the prorogation of Parliament with a ſpeech from the throne, the ſtrength of which ſeems to be thrown into the concluding paragraph; in which both Lords and Commons were earneſtly called upon to aſſiſt his Majeſty, by their influence and authority in their ſeveral counties, as they had already by their unanimous ſupport in Parliament, in guarding the peace of the kingdom from future diſturbances, and watching over the preſervation of the public ſafety; to make the people ſenſible of the happineſs they enjoy, and the diſtinguiſhed advantages they derive from our excellent conſtitution in church and ſtate; to warn them of the hazard of innovation; to point out to them the fatal conſequences of ſuch commotions as had lately been excited; and to impreſs on their minds this important truth—That rebellious inſurrections, to reſiſt or reform the laws, muſt either end in the deſtruction of the perſon who makes the attempt, or in the ſubverſion of our free and happy conſtitution.

A. D. 1780 ſtitution.—This may alſo be conſidered as concluding the political exiſtence of that Parliament, which was diſſolved on the 1ſt of the September following.

Though no great probability had hitherto appeared of a reduction of the Britiſh colonies in America, yet the preceding campaign had terminated with great diſadvantage on the ſide of the Americans. The maritime force of the New England provinces had been almoſt wholly deſtroyed at Ponobſcot; and they had ſuffered a great and mortifying defeat at Savannah: the projects formed by D'Eſtaing had been fruſtrated in the completeſt manner. He had been compelled to retire with a ſhattered fleet and a broken army. Unable to proſecute any further operations, he was now returned to France, and the Colonies were again left to their ſole exertions, with little proſpect of receiving any aſſiſtance from their French allies, in ſufficient time to obviate effectually the attempts that might be made in conſequence of the ſuperiority now obtained by the Britiſh forces.

If the French admiral had ſucceeded in Georgia, the ſiege of New York would certainly have been undertaken, according to a plan concerted between him and General Waſhington; and the apprehenſion of ſuch an event had obliged the Britiſh commanders at New York to make every neceſſary preparation for a vigorous defence. But Count D'Eſtaing having failed in his preliminary operations, and conſiderable bodies of troops which had joined the American army, in full confidence of putting an end to the war by a deciſive blow, having returned home in a ſtate of great diſcontent, it was reſolved to carry the Britiſh arms ſouthward, where the diſtance from the centre of the enemies ſtrength opened a fair proſpect of ſucceſs, and where an impreſſion upon them would be more ſeverely felt than in any other quarter, from the greater value of the countries which were the objects of reduction, in point of wealth, commercial produce, and importance.

The poſſeſſion of Georgia afforded a ready acceſs to the large and valuable province of Carolina: it was determined, therefore, to make this the object of an expedition; and, towards the cloſe of the laſt year, Sir Henry Clinton embarked with a conſiderable land force, under convoy of a ſtrong ſquadron, commanded by Admiral Arbuthnot. Their deſtination was Savannah; but their progreſs being much retarded by contrary winds and ſtormy weather, they did not arrive off the coaſt of Georgia till the expiration of January. On the 12th of February, the army was ſafely landed on the iſlands in the vicinity of Charleſtown, and from thence proceeded to the banks of Aſhley's river, between which and Cooper's river the town is ſituated. On the 1ſt of April, they broke ground within 800 yards of the American works and by the 8th of the ſame month the beſiegers guns were mounted in battery. On the 10th, Sir Henry Clinton and Admiral Arbuthnot ſummoned the town to ſurrender to his Majeſty's arms; but General Lincoln, who commanded there, declaring it to be his intention to defend it to the laſt extremity, the ſiege commenced, and was carried on with the utmoſt bravery, ſkill, and perſeverance. On the 8th of May, the Britiſh commanders again ſummoned the town to ſurrender, the offer being repeated, that on an immediate ſurrender, the lives and property of the inhabitants ſhould be preſerved to them. Articles of capitulation were then propoſed by General Lincoln, which did not receive the approbation of Sir Henry Clinton and Admiral Arbuthnot: at length, however, the town being cloſely inveſted on all ſides, and the preparations to ſtorm it in every part being in great forwardneſs, the American general, on the 11th of May, agreed to ſurrender on the terms which had already been propoſed to him.—By the articles of capitulation, the continental troops and ſailors were to remain priſoners of war till exchanged, but not to be deſpoiled of their private property: the militia in garriſon

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1780 were to be permitted to return to their reſpective homes, as priſoners on parole; which parole, while they obſerved it, was to ſecure them from being moleſted in their property by the Britiſh troops. The citizens of Charleſtown were comprehended in this article; while the ſubjects of France and Spain were allowed to retain their effects, and to be permitted to leave the place, but to continue priſoners on parole.—The priſoners made on this occaſion amounted to upwards of 6,000, amongſt whom were 1,000 ſailors: ſeveral general officers were alſo involved in the ſurrender, and a great number of private perſons, from the great eagerneſs with which all who were in the vicinity of Charleſtown repaired to its defence. The artillery that fell into the hands of the victors conſiſted of near 400 pieces, with four large frigates, a great number of boats, and a very conſiderable quantity of military ſtores.

The conſequence of the reduction of Charleſtown, was a general diſcouragement of the people of the neighbouring provinces, and no ſmall alarm and diſcontent throughout the continent, when the vaſt expectations excited by Count D'Eſtaing were contraſted with his failure, and the ſucceſſes of the Britiſh arms under Sir Henry Clinton. In order, however, to prevent him, if poſſible, from improving them, great exertions were made by the Americans to collect a force ſufficient to make ſome kind of ſtand, till a proper army could be formed. For this purpoſe, detachments from ſeveral parts were drawn to the borders of North Carolina, where it was naturally expected the next motions of the Britiſh army would be directed. On receiving this intelligence, Lord Cornwallis marched up the country, and completely deſtroyed the remaining force of the enemy in that quarter.

After this ſucceſs, the reduction of the extenſive province of South Carolina was deemed ſo complete, at the time of Sir Henry Clinton's returning to his government of New York, that he informs the miniſter for the American department, in his letter, that there were few men in the province who were not either priſoners to, or in arms with the Britiſh forces; and he cannot reſtrain his exultation, at the number of the inhabitants who came in, from every quarter, to teſtify their allegiance, and to offer their ſervices in arms, in ſupport of his Majeſty's government; and who, in many inſtances, had brought as priſoners their former leaders. That officer accordingly, in ſettling the affairs and government of the province, adopted a ſcheme of obliging it to contribute largely to its own defence, and even to look forward in preſent exertion to future ſecurity, by taking an active ſhare in the ſuppreſſion of the rebellion on its borders. With this view, he was determined to admit of no neutrals, and that every man who did not avow himſelf an enemy to the Britiſh government, ſhould take an active part in its ſupport. On this principle, all perſons were expected to be in readineſs with their arms at a moment's warning; thoſe who had families, to form a militia for the home defence; but thoſe who had none, to ſerve with the royal forces, for any ſix months of the enſuing twelve, in which they might be called upon, to aſſiſt "in driving their rebel oppreſſors, and all the miſeries of war, far from the province," &c.

This ſyſtem of ſubduing one part of the Americans by the other, and of eſtabliſhing ſuch an internal force in each ſubjugated colony, as would be nearly, if not entirely, equal to its defence, had been often held out, and frequently ſuggeſted in England, as extremely practicable. It therefore became the duty of Sir Henry Clinton to form ſuch a plan in South Carolina, and for Lord Cornwallis, who ſucceeded him in the government, to purſue it: but all their ſanguine expectations ſeem to have had but a ſhallow foundation, and the firſt moment of ſerious trial brought diſappointment along with it. Indeed, in a very ſhort time after Sir Henry Clinton's departure from Charleſtown, it appeared that many of the inhabitants were

A. D. 1780 were ſo diſſatisfied with the preſent government, that they endeavoured to diſpoſe of their property upon ſuch terms as they could obtain, and to abandon the province. This conduct became ſo frequent and glaring, that Lord Cornwallis found it neceſſary towards the end of July, to iſſue a proclamation, ſtrictly forbidding all ſales and transfers of property, including even negroes, without a licence firſt obtained from the commandant of Charleſtown; and likewiſe prohibiting all maſters of veſſels from carrying any perſon whatever, whether black or white, out of the colony, without a written paſſport from the ſame officer. The battle of Camden, that took place in the month of Auguſt, in which Lord Cornwallis gained a complete victory over the American army commanded by General Gates, convinced the Engliſh general that the return of American loyalty was a matter of no ſolid reliance; that he could do little more than anſwer for the ground on which he encamped; and that in the war in which he commanded, ſucceſs did not wait upon victory.

The affairs of America continued alſo to be extremely critical: the difficulties of the Congreſs and the people had been greatly encreaſed by the depreciation of their paper currency.—At the time when the colonies engaged in a war with Great Britain, they had no regular civil government eſtabliſhed among them of ſufficient energy to enforce the collection of taxes, or to provide funds for the redemption of ſuch bills of credit as their neceſſities obliged them to iſſue. In conſequence of this ſtate of things, their bills encreaſed in quantity far beyond the ſum neceſſary for the purpoſe of a circulating medium; and as they wanted, at the ſame time, ſpecific funds to reſt on for their redemption, they ſaw their paper currency daily ſink in value. The depreciation continued, by a kind of gradual progreſſion, from the year 1777 to 1780; ſo that, at the latter period, the continental dollars were paſſed, by common conſent, in moſt parts of America, at the rate of $\frac{39}{40}$ths below their nominal value. The impoſſibility of keeping up the credit of the currency to any fixed ſtandard, occaſioned great, and almoſt inſuperable embarraſſments, in aſcertaining the value of property, or carrying on trade with any ſufficient certainty. Thoſe who ſold, and thoſe who bought, were left without a rule whereon to form any judgment of their profit or their loſs, and every ſpecies of commerce or exchange, whether foreign or domeſtic, was expoſed to numberleſs and increaſing difficulties. The conſequences of the depreciation of the paper currency were alſo felt with peculiar ſeverity by ſuch of the Americans as were employed in their military ſervices, and greatly augmented their other hardſhips. The requiſitions made by the Congreſs to the ſeveral colonies for ſupplies, were alſo far from being always regularly complied with; and their troops were not unfrequently in want of the moſt common neceſſaries, which very naturally occaſioned complaints and diſcontents among them. Some of theſe difficulties, as they reſulted from their particular ſituation, no wiſdom, perhaps, could have prevented; but they ſeem to have ariſen, in part, from the Congreſs not being ſufficiently acquainted with the principles of finance, and from a defect of ſyſtem in the departments of their government. The cauſe of the Americans appears alſo to have ſuffered ſomewhat by their depending too much on temporary enliſtments: but the Congreſs endeavoured, towards the cloſe of the year 1783, to put their army upon a more permanent footing, and to give all the ſatisfaction to their officers and ſoldiers which their circumſtances would admit. They appointed a committee for arranging their finances, and made ſome new regulations reſpecting their war-office and treaſury-board, and other public departments. But, notwithſtanding theſe, and various other oppreſſive diſadvantages under which they at this time laboured, the Americans appeared to entertain no doubts but that they ſhould be able to maintain their independency; and, on the 4th of July, celebrated the anni-

1780 verſary of its declaration at Philadelphia, with no inconſiderable diſplay of patriotic feſtivity and public rejoicing.

A very principal motive for Spain to join the confederacy againſt Great Britain was the anxious and natural deſire to recover Gibraltar. The poſſeſſion of this important fortreſs by a foreign power was highly mortifying to the Spaniſh court and nation. It was compared to the long retention of Calais by the Engliſh, in former days, and the recovery of it was deemed as eſſential to the honour of the Spaniards, as that of Calais had been reputed by the French, in regard to their own. The principal plan of action was formed according to this idea, which was warmly adopted throughout Spain, and ſerved, in no ſmall degree, to reconcile the people to a war, which was, in other reſpects, ſo much againſt their real intereſts. As ſoon as the rupture was determined upon at Madrid,the Spaniſh court gave immediate orders to the commanding officer of the forces in the vicinity of Gibraltar, to cut off all communication with that place, and to inveſt it in the cloſeſt manner poſſible.

While the Spaniſh general blockaded Gibraltar by land, the admiral, Don Barcelo, did the ſame by ſea; but notwithſtandiug his ſuperiority, the Britiſh ſhips of force then in the bay, exerted themſelves with ſo much activity and ſpirit, as to elude his vigilance on numberleſs occaſions.

The principal inconvenience under which the garriſon laboured, was the frequent ſcarcity of freſh proviſions: it had hitherto been abundantly ſupplied from the coaſt of Barbary, but to what cauſes it might be owing, a ſurprizing and unaccountable alteration had taken place in ſome of the ſtates along that coaſt. The Emperor of Morocco, in particular, had transferred his friendſhip from Great Britain to Spain, in a manner wholly unprecedented. He eſpouſed the cauſe of the latter with a zeal and partiality the more aſtoniſhing, as Britain had given him no provocation, and as the enmity ſubſiſting for ſo many ages between the Spaniards and Moors, was in a manner conſtitutional, and founded upon cauſes that could never ceaſe to operate. So great, however, were the induſtry and reſolution of the Britiſh officers and ſeamen, that, in ſpite of all obſtructions, they frequently found means to procure the refreſhments that were wanted. In the mean time, the defence of the garriſon was ſo vigorous, even while it continued to be ſupplied in this ſcanty manner, that the enemy began to loſe all hope of reducing it. In order, however, to deprive it of this ſupport, they formed a project of burning all the ſhipping in the bay of Gibraltar. For this purpoſe, in the night of the 6th of June, favoured by an uncommon darkneſs, ten fire-ſhips ſtood over from the Spaniſh to the Britiſh ſide of the bay; but from the enemy's precipitation in firing their ſhips too ſoon, and to the heavy cannonade with which they were received, the attempt was fruſtrated. The failure of this project was followed by the defeat of many others:—No ſooner had the enemy puſhed their works forward, and conſtructed new batteries, than they were conſtantly deſtroyed; ſo that the labour of many days was often loſt in a very few hours, and the whole to be recommenced with little proſpect of future ſucceſs.

According to a return made of the inhabitants and garriſon of Gibraltar about this time, the number of inhabitants was 3201; of which there were 506 Engliſh, 1832 Roman Catholics, and 863 Jews.—The houſes amounted to 446, of which 195 belonged to Proteſtants, 144 to Roman Catholics, and 107 to Jews. The garriſon conſiſted of the 12th, 39th, 56th, 58th, 72d, and 73d Engliſh, with three Hanoverian regiments.

Notwithſtanding the misfortune which had befallen Spain in the capture and deſtruction of the ſquadron under Admiral Langara, it was judged incumbent on the Houſe of Bourbon to

A. D. 1780 preſerve that appearance of ſtrength which they had at firſt diſplayed. A junction was conſequently formed of the French and Spaniſh fleets, in the ſame manner as in the preceding year, though with a very inferior force. To this naval combination was oppoſed the Britiſh fleet of thirty ſhips of the line, commanded by Admiral Geary, who ſailed from Spithead in the early part of June, and in the beginning of July, was ſo fortunate as to fall in with a rich fleet from Port au Prince, of which he took twelve ſail; the reſt, with the ſhips of war that convoyed them, eſcaped, from the hazineſs of the weather. But the ſatisfaction afforded by this ſucceſs, was ſhortly loſt in the contemplation of one of the heavieſt blows that had ever been ſuſtained by the Britiſh commerce: a rich and conſiderable fleet, for the Eaſt and Weſt Indies, under the conduct of Captain Moutray of the Ramilies, and two or three frigates, was intercepted, on the 9th of Auguſt, by the combined fleet, under the command of Don Louis de Cordova: five Eaſt India ſhips (which, beſides arms, ammunition, and a train of artillery, were conveying a large quantity of naval ſtores, for the ſupply of the Britiſh ſquadron in the Eaſt) and above fifty Weſt Indiamen were taken; the Ramilies, with the frigates, and a few of the Weſt India ſhips, had the good fortune to eſcape. This fleet included, beſides the Eaſt Indiamen and merchantmen, eighteen victuallers, with a number of ſtoreſhips and tranſports, deſtined for his Majeſty's ſervice in the Weſt Indies. But the principal detriment ſuſtained by this capture, was the loſs of ſeamen and troops, and of the ſupplies which were ſo much wanted in the different places for which they were intended. The number of priſoners amounted to 2,700 ſailors and ſoldiers, near 100 officers, and about 200 paſſengers of both ſexes.

As the combined fleet was known to be at Cadiz, and its putting to ſea anxiouſly apprehended, it was certainly a very extraordinary conduct in government to ſuffer ſuch a fleet to take a courſe ſo cloſe to the coaſt of Spain; at leaſt, if ſuch a courſe had been neceſſary, the grand fleet itſelf could not have been better employed than in guarding ſuch a rich and important flota till it was out of danger. But the reaſon aſſigned for this unfortunate riſque, that it was run in order to accommodate the merchants and the Eaſt India Company, was by no means ſufficient to juſtify the buſineſs; for it does not appear that it was at all neceſſary to ſteer cloſe to the continent of Europe in order to touch at the Madeiras; and, beſides, as there was not a force ſufficient for its protection, the courſe ſhould have been varied, and ſuited to the emergency and danger. Indeed, the mercantile accommodation, however it may be, in general, a very eſſential object of miniſterial attention, was not of that degree of importance as to juſtify ſuch an hazard: the merchants might have provided their wines in another manner.—The conſideration of ſuch matters belonged properly and ſolely to the miniſters at large, and to the admiralty in particular: they poſſeſſed all the means of information, and it therefore became their duty, in all ſuch caſes, to inform the ignorance, or to correct the ſelfiſhneſs of the mercantile adventurer.

About the ſame time, an account was received of the loſs of a great part of the outward-bound Quebec fleet, which was intercepted off the banks of Newfoundland in the beginning of July, by ſome American privateers. Several of theſe veſſels were retaken, but about fourteen rich ſhips were carried entirely off. Theſe loſſes were very ſeverely felt, and operated as a heavy counterbalance to the captures the Britiſh privateers and ſhips of war had made from the enemy.

While, however, all the reſt of Europe were entering into a confederacy, calculated for the ſubverſion of the Britiſh naval power, the Queen of Portugal alone perſevered in her friendſhip for us, and refuſed to accede to the armed neutrality. This refuſal was the more generous, as it

1780 it was, in effect, rendering herſelf liable to the reſentment of the Houſe of Bourbon, at a time when the ability of England for her protection became every day more precarious. It was, therefore, much to be regretted, that this friendſhip was in ſome degree weakened, and in danger of being loſt, through the imprudence of ſome Britiſh officers on the coaſt of Portugal, who, not contented with the advantages which they derived from the free uſe of her ports, and the ſecurity thereby afforded to their prizes, are ſaid to have proceeded to equip and fit out cruizers in the river Tagus, in order to act againſt the enemy. This produced an order from that court, prohibiting the privateers of all nations from entering her ports, excepting in caſes of real neceſſity; and forbidding, even then, their longer ſtay than that neceſſity might demand.

Since the commencement of hoſtilities between Great Britain and her colonies, an intercourſe very hoſtile to the former had been carried on by the Dutch with the latter: though not openly avowed by the Sates-General, it was encouraged by numbers of individuals, not only of the commercial claſſes who profited by it, but of all other denominations. The emiſſaries of France excited ſuch a ſpirit of enmity to Britain, that all the repreſentations which were made of the detriment accruing to them, from ſuch a conduct being permitted or connived at, did not appear to make any impreſſion on the States.

When France declared herſelf in favour of America, the French faction, which had been daily gaining ſtrength, determined to follow the example of that power; but in order, at the ſame time, to avoid the reſentment of Great Britain, judged it ſafeſt to enter into a clandeſtine treaty with the Americans: for this purpoſe, a private negociation was ſet on foot with the commiſſioners appointed by the Congreſs.

This negociation was principally patroniſed by the regency of Amſterdam, a city that had long been notorious for its partiality to the cauſe of France, or indeed of any power that was hoſtile to Great Britain. The penſionary of this city, Mr. Van Berkel, a man of abilities, and a ſworn enemy to the Engliſh, was the perſon who conducted this buſineſs: being, from his office, a miniſter of ſtate of the greateſt authority and influence, it was ſpeedily ſettled.—Thus an alliance was produced between the Dutch and the Americans, of which the common enmity of both to the Britiſh nation became the ſtrongeſt bond. The terms of the treaty were indeed proviſional, and the treaty itſelf purely commercial; but the Americans were clearly conſidered, in the whole of it, as a free and independent nation.

Though Amſterdam alone ſeemed to act upon this occaſion, yet the world well underſtood, that the weight of this great and powerful city was too heavy to be counterbalanced by that of the whole province of which it is the capital, or even of all the Seven United Provinces. It was from a knowledge of this, together with the ſuperiority of the French faction in Holland, that the Congreſs relied on the validity of any meaſures and tranſactions that might take place between the reſpective agents of the contracting parties. Still, however, this treaty was negociated and concluded in the utmoſt concealment and privacy.—It was ſigned on the 4th of September, 1778, by Mr. De Neufville, a Dutch merchant, on the one hand, and Mr. William Lee, on the other; both of whom repaired to Aix la Chapelle for that purpoſe, in order to avoid all ſuſpicion.

This tranſaction had now lain dormant two entire years, and the ruling powers in America began to be very impatient to bring it forward, and to obtain an open acknowledgement of it on the part of Holland. The events of theſe two years were ſuch, as encouraged them to think that the Dutch would not be backward to comply with their wiſhes. Much altercation

A. D. 1780 had taken place, and no ſmall diſguſt created between Great Britain and Holland, from the continual aſſiſtance which the latter afforded to France, and the reſolute methods which the former had adopted in order to prevent it.

Such was the ſituation of affairs, when Congreſs reſolved to depute a perſon of the higheſt rank among them to Holland, in the character of an ambaſſador, for the purpoſe of bringing forward the buſineſs of an alliance between both countries to a ſolid and effectual concluſion. The perſon choſen for this important buſineſs, was Mr. Henry Laurens, late Preſident of the Congreſs, a gentleman of acknowledged abilities and reſpectable character. The high ſtation he had filled with ſo much propriety and applauſe, gave additional weight to the commiſſion he was inveſted with,—were conſiderations that might be naturally expected to accelerate the union propoſed between Holland and America. With this view he embarked at Philadelphia in a Congreſs packet, which, on the third of September, was taken by the Veſtal, Captain Keppel, near Newfoundland. He had thrown his papers overboard; but they were recovered, without having received any material injury; and, on his arrival in England, after having undergone an examination before the Privy Council, Mr. Laurens was committed cloſe priſoner to the Tower, on the ſixth of October, on a charge of high treaſon. Among his papers was found the treaty we have already mentioned, and which was entitled, A Treaty of Amity and Commerce between the Republic of Holland and the United States of America. This important inſtrument we ſhall give at large.

The preamble recites, " That the ſaid contracting ſtates of Holland and America, wiſhing to eſtabliſh a treaty of commerce, have reſolved to fix it on the baſis of a perfect equality, and the reciprocal utility ariſing from the equitable laws of a free trade; provided, that the contracting parties ſhall be at liberty to admit, as they think good, other nations to partake of the advantages ariſing from the ſaid trade actuated by the above equitable principles, the before-mentioned contracting parties have agreed on the following articles:

" Art. I. There ſhall be a permanent, unalterable, and univerſal peace and amity, eſtabliſhed between their High Mightineſſes of the Seven Provinces of Holland, and the United States of North America; as well as between their reſpective ſubjects, iſlands, towns and territories, ſituate under the juriſdiction of the reſpective ſtates above-mentioned, and their inhabitants, without any diſtinction whatſoever of perſons or ſexes.

" II. The ſubjects of the United Provinces of Holland ſhall be liable only to ſuch duties as are paid by the natives and inhabitants of North America, in all the countries, ports, iſlands and towns belonging to the ſaid ſtates; and ſhall enjoy the rights, liberties, privileges, immunities and exemptions in their trade and navigation, common to the ſaid natives and inhabitants, when the ſubjects of Holland ſhall have occaſion to paſs from one American ſtate to another, as well as when bound from thence to any part of the world.

" III. The privileges, &c. granted by the foregoing article to the States of Holland, are, by the preſent, confirmed to the inhabitants of North America.

" IV. The reſpective ſubjects of the contracting parties, as well as the inhabitants of the countries, iſlands, or towns belonging to the ſaid parties, ſhall be at liberty, without producing a written permiſſion, private or public paſs, to travel by land or water, or in whatever manner they think beſt, through the kingdoms, territories, provinces, &c. or dominions whatever, of either of the confederated ſtates, to have their free egreſs and regreſs, to remain in the ſaid places, and during the whole time be at liberty to purchaſe every thing neceſſary to their own ſubſiſtence and uſe: they ſhall alſo be treated with every mark of reciprocal friendſhip

1780 ſhip and favour. Provided nevertheleſs, that in every circumſtance they demean themſelves in perfect conformity with the laws, ſtatutes, and ordinances of thoſe ſaid kingdoms, towns, &c. where they may ſojourn; treating each other with mutual friendſhip, and keeping up among themſelves the moſt perfect harmony, by means of a conſtant correſpondence.

"V. The ſubjects of the contracting powers, and the inhabitants of all places belonging to the ſaid powers, ſhall be at liberty to carry their ſhips and goods (ſuch as are not forbidden by the law of the reſpective ſtates) into all ports, places, &c. belonging to the ſaid powers, and to tarry, without any limitation of time: to hire whole houſes, or in part: to buy and purchaſe from the manufacturer or retailer, either in the public markets, fairs, &c. all ſorts of goods and merchandize not forbidden by any particular law: to open warehouſes for the ſale of goods and effects imported from other parts: nor ſhall they be at any time forced againſt their conſent, to bring the ſaid goods and wares to the markets and fairs; provided, nevertheleſs, that they do not diſpoſe of them by retail, or elſewhere: they ſhall not, however, be liable to any tax or duties, on this or any other account, except thoſe only which are to be paid for their ſhips or goods, according to the laws and cuſtoms of the reſpective ſtates, and at the rate ſtipulated by the preſent treaty. Moreover, they ſhall be entirely at liberty to depart, without the leaſt hinderance, (this extends alſo to their wives, children, and ſuch ſervants who may be deſirous to follow their maſter) and to take with them all goods bought or imported at any time; and for ſuch places as they may think proper, by land, or ſea, or rivers, or lakes; all privileges, laws, conceſſions, immunities, &c. to the contrary notwithſtanding.

"VI. In regard to religious worſhip, the moſt unbounded liberty ſhall be granted to the ſubjects of the ſaid confederate ſtates, for themſelves and families. They ſhall not be compelled to frequent the churches, &c. but ſhall have full liberty to perform divine ſervice, after their own manner, without any moleſtation in either church or chapel, or private houſes *(apertis foribus)*. It is further provided, that any ſubject of one of the contracting powers dying, in any place belonging to the other, ſhall be interred in decent and convenient places, allotted for that purpoſe; and, in fine, that no inſult ſhall, at any time, or in any manner whatever, be offered to the dead or interred bodies.

"VII. It is farther agreed and ſettled, that in all duties, impoſts, taxes, &c. laid on goods, perſons, merchandize, &c. of each and every ſubject of the contracting powers, under any denomination whatſoever, the ſaid ſubjects, inhabitants, &c. ſhall enjoy equal privileges, franchiſes, immunities, either in the courts of juſtice, and in every matter of trade, commerce, or any other caſe, and ſhall be treated with the ſame favour and diſtinction hitherto granted, or hereafter to be granted to any foreign nation whatſoever.

"VIII. Their High Mightineſſes the States General of the Seven United Provinces, ſhall uſe the moſt efficacious means in their power, to protect the ſhips and goods belonging to any of the United States of America, be they public or private property, when in the ports, roads, or ſeas adjoining the ſaid iſlands, &c. belonging to their ſaid High Mightineſſes, and to uſe all their endeavours to bring about a reſtitution to be made to the owners, or their agents, of all veſſels and goods captured within their juriſdiction; and the ſhips of war belonging to their ſaid High Mightineſſes ſhall take under their protection, and convoy the ſhips belonging to the ſaid American States, or any of the ſubjects or inhabitants thereof, following the ſame courſe, and defend the ſaid ſhip as long as they remain in company, againſt all attacks, violence, or oppreſſion, in like manner as they are in duty bound to defend the ſhips of their High Mightineſſes the Seven United Provinces of Holland.

"IX. By

A. D. 1780 "IX. By this article, the ſame obligation is laid on the American States, in favour of the ſhipping, &c. belonging to thoſe of Holland.

"X. Their High Mightineſſes the States of Holland ſhall interpoſe, and employ their good offices in favour of the ſaid American States, their ſubjects and inhabitants, with the Emperor of Morocco, the Regencies of Algiers, Tunis and Tripoli, and all along the coaſt of Barbary and Africa, and with the ſubjects of the ſaid powers, that the ſhips, &c. of the ſaid American States, be as much as poſſible, and to the beſt advantage, protected againſt the violences, inſults, depredations, &c. of the aboveſaid princes and ſubjects on the coaſt of Barbary and Africa.

"XI. It ſhall be permitted and granted to each and every ſubject and inhabitant of the contracting powers, to leave, bequeath, or diſpoſe of, in caſe of ſickneſs, or at their death, all effects, goods, merchandizes, ready money, &c. being their property, at or before their deceaſe, in any town, iſland, &c. belonging to the reſpective contracting powers, in favour of ſuch perſon or perſons, as they may think proper. Moreover, whether the ſaid ſubjects ſhould die after having made ſuch wills, or inteſtate, their lawful heirs, executors, or adminiſtrators, dwelling in any part of the poſſeſſions of the contracting powers, or aliens coming from other countries, ſhall be at liberty, without hindrance or delay, to claim, and take poſſeſſion of, all ſuch goods and effects, conformably to the reſpective laws of each country. Nor ſhall their right be diſputed, under pretence of any prerogative, peculiar to any ſeparate province, or perſon whatſoever. Provided, nevertheleſs, that the claim to the effects of a perſon who died inteſtate, be ſupported by ſuch proofs as the laws of either of the contracting powers have provided in ſuch caſes; all laws, ſtatutes, edicts, *droits d'Aubine*, &c. to the contrary notwithſtanding.

"XII. The effects and property of the ſubjects of either of the contracting powers, dying in any town, iſland, &c. belonging to the other, ſhall be ſequeſtered for the uſe of the lawful heirs and ſucceſſors of the deceaſed. The council, or public miniſter of the nation, to which the perſon thus dying belonged, ſhall take an inventory of all ſuch goods, effects, papers, writings, and books of account of the deceaſed. The ſaid inventory to be delivered into the hands of three merchants of known and approved integrity, who ſhall be nominated for the purpoſe of acting as truſtees to the heirs, executors, &c. or creditors of the deceaſed: nor ſhall any court of judicature interfere, unleſs the ſaid heirs, &c. ſhould require it in the due courſe of law.

"XIII. The reſpective ſubjects of the contracting parties, ſhall be at liberty to chooſe for themſelves advocates, attornies, notaries, ſolicitors, and agents; to this end, that ſuch advocates, &c. ſhall, by the judges of the court aforeſaid, be called in, if the ſaid judges ſhould, by the parties, be required ſo to do.

"XIV. The merchants, commanders, or owners of ſhips, ſailors of every denomination, ſhips or veſſels, effects, and goods in general, belonging to either party, or any of its ſubjects or inhabitants, ſhall, at no time, for any private or public purpoſe, by virtue of any edict whatſoever, be taken, or detained in the countries, ports, iſlands, &c. belonging to either of the contracting parties, to be employed in the ſervice, to forward military expeditions, or any other purpoſe; and much leſs for the private uſe of any one, by violence, or other means made uſe of to moleſt or inſult the ſaid ſubjects. It is farther ſtrictly forbidden to the ſaid ſubjects, on both ſides, not to take away, violently, the property of each other; but, the conſent of the proprietor once obtained, they ſhall be at liberty to purchaſe, paying ready money for the

A. D. 1780 ſame. This article, however, is not to be underſtood as extending to ſuch caſes, where the ſeizure ſhall be made, or the embargo laid by the authority of the legiſlative power for debts incurred, or crimes committed, which ſhall be tried by the due courſe of law.

" XV. It is farther provided and agreed, that all merchants, commanders of ſhips, and other ſubjects belonging to their High Mightineſſes the States of the Seven United Provinces, ſhall regulate their private affairs by themſelves, or by ſuch agents as they may chuſe, in all and every place within the juriſdiction of the United States of America: nor ſhall they be compelled to employ, or pay any interpreter or broker, but ſuch as they think fit to appoint. Moreover, in the lading or unlading of ſhips, the maſters ſhall not be obliged to employ perſons appointed for that purpoſe, by public authority; but ſhall be at full liberty to do it themſelves, or call in the aſſiſtance of any one they ſhall chuſe, without being liable to pay any fee or retribution to any body. Neither ſhall they be compelled to land any particular merchandize, to put them on board other ſhips, to take others on board their own, without their free conſent; or to remain laden longer than they ſhall think proper. The ſubjects and inhabitants of the United States of America, ſhall fully enjoy the ſame privileges in all the dominions of the States of Holland.

" XVI. In caſe any diſpute or controverſy ſhould ariſe between the maſter of a ſhip and his crew, belonging to one of the two nations, and then in any port within the dominions of the other, concerning the payment of wages, or any other matter to be determined by the civil law, the magiſtrate of ſuch port, or place, ſhall only require the defendant to deliver to the plaintiff, a declaration under his hand, and witneſſed by the ſaid magiſtrate; by which the ſaid defendant ſhall bind himſelf to appear, and anſwer the complaint laid againſt him, before a competent judge in his own country. This being done, the ſaid crew ſhall not be permitted to leave the ſhip, or prevent the maſter from following his courſe. The merchants of either nation ſhall be authoriſed to keep their books in what language and manner they may think beſt, without the leaſt hindrance or moleſtation. But, in caſe it ſhould be neceſſary, in order to ſettle a point of law, for them to produce their books, they ſhall bring them into court for examination; in ſuch a manner, however, that neither the judge, nor any one elſe, whatſoever, ſhall be permitted to peruſe any article in the ſaid books, but ſuch as may be abſolutely neceſſary to aſcertain the authenticity and regularity of the ſaid books. Nor ſhall any one, under any pretence whatever, preſume to force the ſaid books and writings from the owners, or detain them: caſes of bankruptcy alone excepted.

" XVII. The ſhips of either nation, bound to the reſpective ports, ſhall, upon a juſt cauſe of being ſuſpected, either in regard to their deſtination or their cargoes, be obliged to produce, either at ſea, in the roads, or ports, not only their paſſports, but alſo certificates, witneſſing that the goods they have on board are not prohibited by the reſpective laws.

" XVIII. If, upon ſuch certificates being produced, the examining party ſhould diſcover that ſome of the goods mentioned in the bills of lading are prohibited by this treaty, or bound to ſome port belonging to the enemy; in ſuch caſe it ſhall not be lawful to break into any part of the ſhip, or force any trunks, boxes, barrels, &c. nor even to diſplace any part of the cargoes (whether ſuch ſhip belongs to Holland or America) to come at the ſaid goods, which are not in any ways to be ſearched until they are landed in the preſence of ſome officers of the Admiralty Court, who ſhall enter a verbal proceſs about them. Nor ſhall it be permitted to ſell, exchange, or adulterate the ſaid goods in any wiſe, till the law ſhall have taken its courſe, and the matter be determined by the ſentence of the reſpective Admiralty Courts, pronouncing

A. D. 1780 them ſeizable: the ſhip and other parts of the cargo not prohibited by treaty, ſhall not be detained, under the pretence of part of the lading being condemned, and much leſs confiſcated as lawful prizes. But, in caſe part of the cargo ſhould conſiſt of the ſaid prohibited goods, and the maſter of the ſhip ſhall conſent to deliver them up immediately, then the captor, having taken out of the ſaid ſhip the prohibited goods, ſhall permit the maſter to continue his courſe to the place of his deſtination: yet, if all the prohibited goods could not be taken on board the captor, the latter ſhall, notwithſtanding the maſter's free tender of the ſaid goods, bring the former into the neareſt port, where it ſhall be produced in manner aforeſaid.

" XIX. It is agreed on the contrary, that all effects, &c. of any ſubject of either ſtate, found on any ſhip taken from an enemy, ſuch effects, &c. though they be not prohibited by any article of this treaty, ſhall be conſidered as lawful prize, and be diſpoſed of as if they belonged to the enemy: (except only in caſe the war ſhould not have been proclaimed, or not come to the knowledge of the proprietors of the ſaid effects, &c.) which, in ſuch caſes only, ſhall not be liable to be confiſcated, but be immediately returned to the owners without any delay, upon their making good their claim; provided, nevertheleſs, that the ſaid goods are not of the kind which are prohibited; nor will it be lawful to ſhip them afterwards, for any of the enemy's ports: the two contracting parties agreeing, moreover, that ſix months, from the date of a declaration of war, will be conſidered as a ſufficient notice to the ſubjects of either ſtate, whatever quarter of the world they may come from.

XX. In order to provide farther for the ſafety of the ſubjects on both ſides, that neither of the parties may be annoyed by the armed ſhips or privateers belonging to the other, during the courſe of a war, particular injunctions ſhall be laid upon the commanders of ſhips and privateers, &c. &c. to the reſpective ſubjects of the contracting powers, not to vex or offer any moleſtation to any one of them; and, in caſe of failure herein, the offending party ſhall be puniſhed, and compelled to make good the damage, their perſons and fortunes anſwering for the ſame.

" XXI. All ſhips and effects retaken from privateers or pirates, ſhall be carried into ſome of the ports belonging to either ſtate, and returned to the owners, upon their giving ſatisfactory proofs of their right to the ſaid recaptures.

" XXII. It ſhall be lawful for all commanders of ſhips of war, privateers, &c. to carry off freely all ſhips and effects taken from the enemy, without being ſubject to pay any duty or duties to the admiralty or other courts; nor ſhall ſuch prizes be liable to be detained or ſeized upon in any of the ports of the reſpective ſtates: the ſearching officers ſhall not be permitted to viſit or ſearch the ſaid prizes: the captors whereof will be at liberty to put back to ſea, and convoy the prizes wherever they are directed to be carried; as ſpecified in the orders given to the commanders of ſuch ſhips, privateers, &c. which they ſhall be obliged to produce. But all the ports of both ſtates ſhall be ſhut againſt all prizes made on the ſubjects of either: and in caſe ſuch prizes and captors ſhould be driven to ſome of the ſaid ports, by ſtreſs of weather, every means ſhall be employed to haſten their departure.

" XXIII. In caſe any ſhips, boats, &c. ſhould be wrecked or otherwiſe damaged on the coaſts of either of the contracting ſtates, all aid and aſſiſtance ſhall be given to the diſtreſſed crews, to whom paſſes and free-conduct ſhall be granted for their return into their own country.

" XXIV. If a ſhip or ſhips, either of war, or employed for the purpoſe of trading, by one of the ſtates, ſhould, by ſtreſs of weather, imminent danger from pirates, enemies, &c. be compelled

1780 compelled to take ſhelter in any ports, rivers, bays, &c. belonging to the other, they ſhall be treated with all humanity, friendſhip, and moſt cordial protection. Leave ſhall be granted them to take in proviſions and refreſhments at a reaſonable rate, and to purchaſe whatever they may ſtand in need of, either for themſelves or for the purpoſe of repairing the damage they may have ſuffered, and alſo for the continuation of their voyage. No obſtacle whatever ſhall be laid in their way to ſtop or detain them in any of the ſaid ports, &c. whence they ſhall be at liberty to ſail, whenever they may think fit.

" XXV. In order to put commerce in the moſt flouriſhing ſtate, it is agreed, that, in caſe a war ſhould at any time break out between the contracting parties, ſix months ſhall be allowed to the reſpective ſubjects for them to retire with their families and property, to whatever place they may judge proper; alſo to be at liberty, during the above ſpace of time, to ſell or otherwiſe diſpoſe of their goods and chattels, without the leaſt hindrance or moleſtation. But, above all, it is provided, that the ſaid ſubjects ſhall not be detained, by arreſtment or ſeizure. On the contrary, during the aforeſaid ſix months, the reſpective ſtates, and their ſubjects, or inhabitants, ſhall have good and ſpeedy juſtice done to them; ſo that, during the ſaid time, they may recover their goods and effects, whether they be in the public funds, or in private hands. And if any part thereof ſhould happen to be embezzled, or that any inſult or wrong ſhould have been offered to the ſubjects, &c. of either ſtate, the offending party ſhall give the immediate and convenient ſatisfaction for ſuch embezzlement, wrong, or inſult.

" XXVI. The ſubjects, &c. of either ſtate ſhall abſtain from requiring or accepting any commiſſions or letters of marque from any power then at war with either of the ſaid ſtates, ſo as to command armed ſhips againſt either, and to their detriment; and if any individual belonging to either, ſhould fail herein, he ſhall be dealt with as being guilty of piracy.

" XXVII. It ſhall not be lawful for any privateer, not belonging to either of the contracting parties, which might be furniſhed with commiſſions, or letters of marque from any power, in actual enmity with either of them, to fit out their ſhips in any port belonging to the ſaid ſtates, therein ſell their prizes, or make in any wiſe an exchange of their ſaid ſhips, merchandize, goods, or effects, being the whole or part of the cargo contained in the aforeſaid captures. Nor ſhall the ſaid commanders be permitted to take in proviſions, but juſt as much as will enable them to reach a port, neareſt to the dominion of their employers.

" XXVIII. Subjects and inhabitants of both the contracting parties ſhall be at liberty to navigate their ſhips (without any diſtinction of owners, to whom the cargo or cargoes may belong) from all ports whatever belonging to the powers, that then are, or afterwards may be in amity with either of the afore-mentioned ſtates; as alſo to trade in their way to or from ſuch places, ports, and towns belonging to the enemies of either party, whether the ſaid place be within the juriſdiction of one or more powers. It is alſo hereby ſtipulated, that the freedom of ſhipping will be extended to the cargoes belonging to the reſpective ſubjects or inhabitants of the ſaid ſtates, though the whole, or part of the ſaid cargo ſhould be the enemy's property. This privilege is alſo to be conſtructed as extending to all perſons whatever, on board the ſaid ſhips (the military in the enemy's ſervice only excepted) as well as contraband goods.

" XXIX. This article contains a large enumeration of the goods prohibited to be carried to the enemy, which comprehends all manner of warlike ſtores. It gives alſo an account of ſuch goods as may be lawfully exported; namely, cloathing and other manufactured goods of wool, cloth, ſilks, &c. &c. the matters employed in manufacturing the ſame; gold and ſilver either coined or in bullion, all ſorts of metals, corn, and ſeeds, ſpices, tobacco, meat, ſalt or ſmoaked, 1780 ed, and every kind of eatables; in fine, ſhip timber, ſails, canvas, and every effect whatever not faſhioned in the ſhape of any tool or warlike inſtrument uſually employed in war, either by ſea or land: all the aforeſaid goods and wares, ſhall at no time be looked upon as contraband, and may be carried by the ſubjects and inhabitants of the confederate ſtates, even to the places belonging to the enemy then at war with either party, excepting only ſuch towns and places, which might happen to be beſieged, ſurrounded or blocked up at the time of ſhipping off, for their uſe, the ſaid wares and goods.

" XXX. In order to prevent all diſſenſion and difficulty which might ariſe between the ſubjects of either ſtate, in caſe one of them ſhould go to war with ſome other power or powers, the ſhipping, &c. belonging to the other party, ſhall be provided with letters or paſſes, ſpecifying the name, cargo, and burthen of the ſhip, together with the captain or maſter's name, and the place of his reſidence: that thus it may appear that the ſhip, &c. belongs truly to the ſaid ſubjects and inhabitants. The ſaid paſs to be worded as ſhall be mentioned at the end of this preſent treaty.

" Theſe letters, or paſſes, ſhall be renewed every year, if the bearers ſhould return to the ſame port within that time. It is farther agreed, that, beſides the aforeſaid paſſes, certificates ſhall be given, mentioning every part of the cargoes, the reſpective places from and to which ſuch ſhips may be bound. The ſaid certificates to be drawn up in the uſual form, before the officers of the place from whence the ſaid ſhips are to ſail; and the ſaid officers ſhall be at liberty to mention, by name, if they think it expedient, the owners of the cargo or cargoes.

" XXXI. The commanders or owners of ſhips belonging to the contracting parties, entering into any of the roads of either of the ſaid ſtates, who may not think proper to enter into port; or, when entered, will not chuſe to unload either the whole or part of their cargo, ſhall not be compelled to declare in what it conſiſts, unleſs a well grounded ſuſpicion ſhould ariſe, on ſome evident circumſtances, of their being laden for the enemy, or carrying from one of the confederate ſtates, to the other, any prohibited goods; in which caſe, ſuch commanders, owners, or inhabitants, ſhall be obliged to ſhew their paſſports and certificates, drawn up in the manner hereafter mentioned.

" XXXII. When the ſhips, belonging to either ſtate, ſailing coaſtways, or otherwiſe, ſhall be met by the ſhips of war, privateers, &c. of the other party, in order to prevent miſchief, the latter ſhall keep out of the reach of the guns, though it will be lawful for them to ſend their boats to board the above ſaid merchantmen, not ſuffering above two or three men at a time to get on board to them. The maſter or commander of the ſaid ſhip, ſhall preſent his paſſports, conformably to the tenor hereafter recited. After which, the ſaid ſhip, or merchantman, ſhall be at full liberty to continue its voyage, without being ſearched, chaſed, or obliged to alter its courſe, or otherwiſe moleſted, under any pretence whatſoever.

" XXXIII. It is farther agreed, that all goods and effects whatever, being once put on board of a ſhip, or ſhips, belonging to either of the contracting parties, ſhall not be liable to a ſecond viſit, or ſearch, after having undergone that which muſt precede the lading of ſuch ſhips; as all prohibited goods muſt be ſtopped on the very ſpot, before they are ſuffered to be carried on board the ſhips belonging to either party; the ſame not being liable to any other kind of embargo for the aforeſaid cauſe. And the ſubjects of either ſtate, where ſuch effects ſhall, or ſhould have been ſeized upon, ſhall be puniſhed for importing the ſame, according to the manner provided by the laws, cuſtoms, and ordinances of his own native country.

A. D. 1780 “ XXXIV. The contracting parties mutually agree, that they ſhall be at liberty to have their reſpective conſuls, vice-conſuls, commiſſaries, and other agents, appointed by, and for each party. Their functions and officers ſhall be regulated by a particular convention, whenever either of the contracting powers ſhall think proper to appoint ſuch officers.

“ Here follows the form of the paſſport and certificate, the intention and purport of which, are ſufficiently explained in the thirtieth article of this treaty.”

This diſcovery gave ſo much and ſuch juſt offence to our court, that Sir Joſeph Yorke, on the tenth of November, preſented the following memorial to the States General.

“ The King, my maſter, has, through the whole courſe of his reign, ſhewed the moſt ſincere deſire to preſerve the union which has ſubſiſted upwards of a century, between his crown and the republic. This union is founded on the durable baſis of a reciprocal intereſt, and as it has greatly contributed to the welfare of both nations, the natural enemy both of the one and the other is uſing his utmoſt policy to deſtroy it; and for ſome time paſt his endeavours have been but too ſucceſsful, being ſupported by a faction that aims at domineering over the republic, and which is at all times ready to ſacrifice the general intereſt to their own private views.

“ The King has beheld, with equal regret and ſurpriſe, the ſmall effect which his repeated claims for the ſtipulated ſuccours, and the repreſentations of his ambaſſador on the daily violation of the moſt ſolemn engagements, have produced.

“ His Majeſty’s moderation has induced him to attribute this conduct of your High Mightineſſes to intrigues of a prevailing faction; and he would ſtill perſuade himſelf, that your juſtice and diſcernment will determine you to fulfil your engagements towards him, and to prove by your whole conduct, that you are reſolved vigorouſly to adhere to the ſyſtem formed by the wiſdom of your anceſtors, which is the only one that can ſecure the ſafety and glory of the republic.

“ The anſwer which your High Mightineſſes return to this declaration, which the underſigned makes by the expreſs order of his court, will be conſidered as the touchſtone of your intentions and ſentiments reſpecting the King.

“ For a long time paſt the King has had innumerable indications of the dangerous deſigns of an unruly cabal; but the papers of Mr. Laurens, who ſtiles himſelf Preſident of the pretended Congreſs, furniſhes the diſcovery of a plot, unexampled in all the annals of the republic. It appears by theſe papers, that the gentlemen of Amſterdam have been engaged in a clandeſtine correſpondence with the American rebels, from the month of Auguſt, 1778, and that inſtructions and full powers had been given by them for the concluſion of a treaty of indiſputable amity, with thoſe rebels, who are the ſubjects of a ſovereign to whom the republic is united by the cloſeſt engagements. The authors of this plot do not even attempt to deny it, but, on the contrary, vainly endeavour to juſtify their conduct.

“ In theſe circumſtances, his Majeſty, relying on the equity of your High Mightineſſes, demands a formal diſavowal of ſuch irregular conduct, which is no leſs contrary to your moſt ſacred engagements, than to the fundamental laws of the conſtitution of Batavia. The King demands equally a prompt ſatisfaction proportioned to the offence, and an exemplary puniſhment on the Penſioner Van Berkel, and his accomplices, as diſturbers of the public peace, and violators of the law of nations.

“ His Majeſty perſuades himſelf, that the anſwer of your High Mightineſſes will be ſpeedy and ſatisfactory in all reſpects; but ſhould the contrary happen; if you ſhould refuſe ſo juſt a demand,

A. D. 1780 demand, or endeavour to elude it by ſilence which will be regarded as a refuſal, then the King cannot but conſider the republic itſelf, as approving of thoſe outrages which they refuſe to diſavow and to puniſh; and, after ſuch conduct, his Majeſty will find himſelf under the neceſſity of taking thoſe meaſures, which the preſervation of his own dignity, and the eſſential intereſts of his people demand. (Signed,)

"JOSEPH YORKE."

No immediate anſwer being given by the States General to this memorial, the demand contained in it was preſſed by the Britiſh ambaſſador in repeated conferences; and, on the 12th of December, he preſented a ſecond memorial, which concludes in the following manner.

"In deliberating upon that memorial, to which the under-ſigned here requires an immediate and ſatisfactory anſwer in every reſpect, your High Mightineſſes will doubtleſs conſider, that the affair is of the laſt importance; that it relates to the complaint of an offended ſovereign; that the offence, for which he demands an exemplary puniſhment, and a complete ſatisfaction, is a violation of the Batavian conſtitution, of which the King is a guarantee; an infraction of the public faith; an attempt againſt the dignity of his crown. The King has never imagined, that your High Mightineſſes had approved of a treaty with his rebellious ſubjects: that had been raiſing the buckler on your part, and would have been a declaration of war. But the offence has been committed by the magiſtrates of a city, which makes a conſiderable part of the ſtate; and it belongs to the ſovereign power to puniſh and give ſatisfaction for it.

"His Majeſty, by the complaints made by his ambaſſador, has placed the puniſhment and the reparation in the hands of your High Mightineſſes; and it will not be till the laſt extremity, that is to ſay, in the caſe of a denial of juſtice, or of ſilence, which muſt be interpreted as a refuſal, that the King will take them upon himſelf."

To this memorial no other anſwer was given, than it would be taken into conſideration according to the uſages and forms cuſtomary in ſuch matters, and that a reply would be given as ſoon as the nature of their government would admit. This anſwer, however, not proving ſatisfactory to the court of Great Britain, it came to the reſolution of recalling the Britiſh ambaſſador from the Hague, and of proceeding to immediate hoſtilities againſt the ſubjects of the United Provinces; and, on the 20th of December, the following manifeſto was publiſhed.

"GEORGE R.

"Through the whole courſe of our reign, our conduct towards the States General of the United Provinces has been that of a ſincere friend and faithful ally. Had they adhered to thoſe wiſe principles which uſed to govern the republic, they muſt have ſhewn themſelves equally ſolicitous to maintain the friendſhip which has ſo long ſubſiſted between the two nations, and which is eſſential to the intereſts of both: but, from the prevalence of a faction devoted to France, and following the dictates of that court, a very different policy has prevailed. The return made to our friendſhip, for ſome time paſt, has been an open contempt of the moſt ſolemn engagements, and a repeated violation of the public faith. On the commencement of the defenſive war, in which we found ourſelves engaged by the aggreſſion of France, we ſhewed a tender regard for the intereſts of the States General, and a deſire of ſecuring to their ſubjects every advantage of trade, conſiſtent with the great and juſt principle of our own defence. Our ambaſſador was inſtructed to offer a friendly negociation, to obviate every thing that might lead to diſagreeable diſcuſſion; and to this offer ſolemnly made by him to the States General, the ſecond of November, 1778, no attention was paid. After the number of our enemies increaſed by the aggreſſion of Spain, equally unprovoked with that of France, we

A. D. 1780 found it neceſſary to call upon the States General for the performance of their engagements. The fifth article of the perpetual defenſive alliance between our crown and the States General, concluded at Weſtminſter the third of March, 1678, beſides the general engagements for ſuccours, expreſsly ſtipulates, "That that party of the two allies which is not attacked, ſhall be obliged to break with the aggreſſor in two months after the party attacked ſhall require it." Yet two years have paſſed without the leaſt aſſiſtance given to us, without a ſingle ſyllable in anſwer to our repeated demands. So totally regardleſs have the States been of their treaties with us, that they readily promiſed our enemies to obſerve a neutrality in direct contradiction to thoſe engagements; and whilſt they have with-held from us the ſuccours they were bound to furniſh, every ſecret aſſiſtance has been given the enemy; and inland duties have been taken off, for the ſole purpoſe of facilitating the carriage of naval ſtores to France."

"In direct and open violation of treaty, they ſuffered an American pirate to remain ſeveral weeks in one of their ports, and even permitted a part of his crew to mount guard in a fort in the Texel. In the Eaſt Indies, the ſubjects of the States General, in concert with France, have endeavoured to raiſe up enemies againſt us. In the Weſt Indies, particularly at St. Euſtatia, every protection and aſſiſtance has been given to our rebellious ſubjects. Their privateers are openly received in the Dutch harbours; allowed to refit there; ſupplied with arms and ammunition; their crews recruited; their prizes brought in and ſold; and all this in direct violation of as clear and ſolemn ſtipulations as can be made.

"This conduct, ſo inconſiſtent with all good faith, ſo repugnant to the ſenſe of the wiſeſt part of the Dutch nation, is chiefly to be aſcribed to the prevalence of the leading magiſtrates of Amſterdam, whoſe ſecret correſpondence with our rebellious ſubjects was ſuſpected, long before it was made known by the fortunate diſcovery of a treaty, the firſt article of which is: 'There ſhall be a firm, inviolable, and univerſal peace and ſincere friendſhip, between their 'High Mightineſſes the States of the Seven United Provinces of Holland, and the United 'States of North America, and the ſubjects and people of the ſaid parties; and between the 'countries, iſlands, cities and towns, ſituated under the juriſdiction of the ſaid United States 'of Holland, and the ſaid United States of America, and the people and inhabitants thereof, 'of every degree, without exception of perſons and places.' This treaty was ſigned in September, 1778, by the expreſs order of the Penſionary of Amſterdam, and other principal magiſtrates of that city. They now not only avow the whole tranſaction, but glory in it, and expreſsly ſay, even to the States General, that what they did, 'was what their indiſpenſable 'duty required.' In the mean time, the States General declined to give any anſwer to the memorial preſented by our ambaſſador; and this refuſal was aggravated by their proceeding upon other buſineſs, nay, upon the conſideration of this very ſubject to internal purpoſes; and, while they found it impoſſible to approve the conduct of their ſubjects, they ſtill induſtriouſly avoided to give us the ſatisfaction ſo manifeſtly due.

"We had every right to expect, that ſuch a diſcovery would have rouſed them to a juſt indignation at the inſult offered to us and to themſelves; and that they would have been eager to give us full and ample ſatisfaction for the offence, and to inflict the ſevereſt puniſhment upon the offenders. The urgency of the buſineſs, made an inſtant anſwer eſſential to the honour and ſafety of this country. The demand was accordingly preſſed by our ambaſſador in repeated conferences with the miniſters; and, in a ſecond memorial, it was preſſed with all the earneſtneſs which could proceed from our ancient friendſhip, and the ſenſe of recent injuries;

A. D. 1780 juries; and the anſwer now given to a memorial on ſuch a ſubject, delivered about five weeks ago, is, 'That the States have taken it *ad referendum*.' Such an anſwer, upon ſuch an occaſion, could only be dictated by the fixed purpoſe of hoſtility meditated, and already reſolved by the States, induced by the offenſive councils of Amſterdam thus to countenance the hoſtile aggreſſion, which the magiſtrates of that city have made in the name of the republic.

"There is an end to the faith of all treaties with them, if Amſterdam may uſurp the ſovereign power, may violate thoſe treaties with impunity, by pledging the States to engagements directly contrary, and leaguing the republic with the rebels of a ſovereign to whom ſhe is bound by the cloſeſt ties. An infraction of the law of nations, by the meaneſt member of any country, gives the injured ſtate a right to demand ſatisfaction and puniſhment: how much more ſo, when the injury complained of is a flagrant violation of public faith, committed by leading and predominant members in the ſtate? Since then the ſatisfaction we have demanded is not given, we muſt, though moſt reluctantly, do ourſelves that juſtice which we cannot otherwiſe obtain: we muſt conſider the States General as parties in the injury which they will not repair, as ſharers in the aggreſſion which they refuſe to puniſh, and muſt act accordingly. We have, therefore, ordered our ambaſſador to withdraw from the Hague, and ſhall immediately purſue ſuch vigorous meaſures as the occaſion fully juſtifies, and our dignity and the eſſential intereſts of our people require. From a regard to the Dutch nation at large, we wiſh it were poſſible to direct thoſe meaſures wholly againſt Amſterdam; but this cannot be, unleſs the States General will immediately declare, that Amſterdam ſhall, on this occaſion, receive no aſſiſtance from them, but be left to abide the conſequences of its aggreſſion.

"While Amſterdam is ſuffered to prevail in the general councils, and is backed by the ſtrength of the State, it is impoſſible to reſiſt ſo conſiderable a part, without contending with the whole. But we are too ſenſible of the common intereſts of both countries, not to remember, in the midſt of ſuch a conteſt, that the only point to be aimed at by us, is to raiſe a diſpoſition in the councils of the republic to return to our ancient union, by giving us that ſatisfaction for the paſt and ſecurity for the future, which we ſhall be as ready to receive as they can be to offer, and to the attainment of which we ſhall direct all our operations. We mean only to provide for our own ſecurity, by defeating the dangerous deſigns that have been formed againſt us. We ſhall ever be diſpoſed to return to friendſhip with the States General, when they ſincerely revert to that ſyſtem which the wiſdom of their anceſtors formed, and which has now been ſubverted by a powerful faction, conſpiring with France againſt the true intereſts of the republic, no leſs than againſt thoſe of Great Britain."

"G. R."

Thus another enemy was added to the formidable combination already ſubſiſting againſt this country; an enemy, whoſe proximity and maritime ſtrength greatly increaſed the dangers with which Great Britain was already ſurrounded. It was not, however, without the utmoſt aſtoniſhment, that the politicians of Europe beheld a connection formed between the Houſe of Bourbon and the United Provinces. The very great inconveniencies to which they expoſed themſelves, by ſuch a meaſure, were manifeſt, while the utility reſulting from it was very problematical. In the opinion of the unprejudiced, it ſeemed, at beſt, to produce but a momentary advantage, and threatened to ſubject them to diſadvantages in future, which would more than counterbalance any preſent benefit they might derive from it. Their alliance with America was conſidered, at the ſame time, as a meaſure dictated by the intrigues of France, and

1780 and taken up in a fit of reſentment for the obſtructions they had met with in the proſecution of their commercial ſchemes with both: thus, inſtead of attending to the eſſential and long eſtabliſhed maxims of their policy, they were led away by the private views of their merchants and traders, whoſe tranſient benefit was unhappily conſulted in preference to the permanent intereſt of the State.

The greater part of the Engliſh nation ſeemed to approve of the conduct of government on this occaſion, and to think that the behaviour of the Dutch, at the preſent criſis, rendered hoſtilities juſtifiable and neceſſary. But there were many, alſo, who thought, that a war with Holland was an evil of too great magnitude to be haſtily undertaken; eſpecially at a time, when Great Britain had already ſo many enemies to contend with; who conſidered the injury and the diminution which the Engliſh commerce muſt ſuſtain from a rupture with Holland; and who thought, that the conduct of the Britiſh miniſtry in this tranſaction, had not been characterized by that wiſdom and moderation, which ſeemed to be indiſpenſably requiſite in the preſent very critical and dangerous ſituation of the affairs of Great Britain.

On the fifth of October, in this year, his Majeſty's veſſels the Reſolution and the Diſcovery anchored at the Nore, from the celebrated voyage of circumnavigation which has done ſo much honour to the mind that projected, the nation that encouraged, and the naval officers that executed it. Captain Cook, who conducted it with ſo much fortitude, perſeverance and ability, unfortunately for his country, loſt his life in the courſe of it. But, in a work of a commercial nature, we ſhould be very juſtly accuſed of inattention to its principal object, if the diſcoveries made in the ſeveral voyages undertaken by this great navigator, were to paſs unnoticed by us. We ſhall, therefore, give a ſhort abſtract of them.

At the cloſe of the year 1767, it was reſolved by the Royal Society, that it would be proper to ſend perſons into ſome part of the South Sea, to obſerve a tranſit of the planet Venus over the ſuns diſk, which, according to aſtronomical calculation, would happen in the year 1769; and, that the iſlands called Marqueſas de Mendoza, or thoſe of Rotterdam or Amſterdam, were the propereſt places then known for making ſuch obſervation. In conſequence of theſe reſolutions, it was recommended to his Majeſty, in a memorial from the Society, dated February, 1768, that he would be pleaſed to order ſuch an obſervation to be made; upon which his Majeſty ſignified to the Lords Commiſſioners of the Admiralty his pleaſure, that a ſhip ſhould be provided to carry ſuch obſervers, as the Society ſhould think fit, to the South Seas; and, accordingly, a veſſel of 370 tons was prepared for that purpoſe. It was named the Endeavour, and commanded by Captain James Cook, who was ſoon after, by the Royal Society, appointed with Mr. Charles Green, a gentleman who had long been an aſſiſtant to Dr. Bradley, at the Royal Obſervatory at Greenwich, to obſerve the tranſit. Captain Cook accordingly ſet ſail from Plymouth on the 26th of Auguſt, 1768, accompanied in his voyage by Sir Joſeph Banks, the preſent Preſident of the Royal Society, and Dr. Solander. They made no diſcovery till they got within the Tropics, where they fell in with Lagoon Iſland, two groups of iſlands, Bird Iſland, and Chain Iſland, and they arrived, on the 13th of April, 1769, at Otaheite, where they had been inſtructed to make their obſervations, as a more proper place for the purpoſe than thoſe which had been firſt ſuggeſted. During their ſtay at that iſland, they had the opportunity of making very accurate enquiries relative to its produce and inhabitants, and, on the 4th of June, the whole paſſage of the planet Venus over the ſun's diſk was obſerved by them, with great advantage. The reſult of their obſervations may be found in the Philoſo-

A. D. 1780 phical Tranſactions. After his departure from Otaheite, Captain Cook diſcovered and viſited the Society Iſlands and Oheteroa, and thence proceeded to the ſouth till he arrived in the latitude of 40 degrees, 22 minutes; longitude 147 degrees, 29 minutes, W.; and afterwards made an accurate ſurvey of New Zealand. In November, he diſcovered a chain of iſlands, which he called Barrier Iſlands. He afterwards proceeded to New Holland, and from thence to New Guinea; and in September, 1770, arrived at the iſland of Savu, from whence he proceeded to Batavia, and from thence round the Cape of Good Hope to England, where he arrived on the 12th of June, 1771.

Soon after Captain Cook's return home in the Endeavour, it was reſolved to equip two ſhips in order to make further diſcoveries in the ſouthern hemiſphere. Accordingly the Reſolution and Adventure were appointed for that purpoſe, the firſt was commanded by Captain Cook, and the latter by Captain Tobias Furneaux. They ſailed from Plymouth Sound on the 13th of July, 1772, and, on the 29th of the ſame month, arrived at the iſland of Madeira. From thence they proceeded to the Cape of Good Hope; and in February, 1773, arrived at New Zealand, having ſought in vain for a ſouthern continent. In that month the Reſolution and Adventure ſeparated, in conſequence of a thick fog, but joined company again in Queen Charlotte's Sound, on the 18th of May following. In Auguſt they arrived at Otaheite; and in September they diſcovered Hervey's Iſland. On the 2d of October they came to Middleburgh, one of the Friendly Iſles, and about the cloſe of that month, the two ſhips were again ſeparated and did not join company any more. Captain Cook, however, proceeded in the Reſolution, in order to make diſcoveries in the ſouthern polar regions, but was ſtopped in his progreſs by the ice, in the latitude of 71 degrees, 10 minutes ſouth; longitude 106 degrees, 54 minutes weſt. He then proceeded to Eaſter Iſland, where he arrived in March, 1774, where he did alſo in the ſame month at the Marqueſas Iſlands. He afterwards diſcovered four Iſlands, which he named Palliſer's Iſlands, and again ſteered for Otaheite, where he arrived on the 22d of April, and viſited the neighbouring iſles. In Auguſt he came to the New Hebrides, ſome of which were firſt diſcovered by him: after leaving theſe iſlands, he ſteered to the ſouthward for a few days and diſcovered New Caledonia. Having ſurveyed the ſouth weſt coaſt of this iſland, Captain Cook ſteered again for New Zealand, in order to refreſh his crew, &c. and put his ſhip in a condition to encounter the dangers attending the navigation in the high ſouthern latitudes. Directing his courſe to the ſouth eaſt, after leaving New Zealand, till he arrived in the latitude of 55 degrees, 6 minutes ſouth; longitude 138 degrees, 56 minutes weſt, without meeting with any continent, Captain Cook gave up all hopes of diſcovering any in this ocean; and, therefore, came to a reſolution to ſteer directly for the weſt entrance of the Straits of Magellan, with a view of coaſting and ſurveying the outermoſt or ſouth ſide of Terra del Fuego. Keeping, accordingly, in about the latitude of 53 or 55, and ſteering nearly eaſt, he arrived off the weſtern mouth of the Straits of Magellan, without meeting with any thing remarkable in his new courſe. In January, 1775, he diſcovered a large and dreary iſland, to which he gave the name of South Georgia. He afterwards diſcovered various capes and elevated ſnow-clad coaſts, to the moſt ſouthern part of which he gave the name of the Southern Thule, as being the neareſt land to that Pole which had been yet diſcovered. In February, he diſcovered Sandwich Land and ſeveral iſlands covered with ſnow. He then proceeded round the Cape of Good Hope to England, where he arrived on the 30th of July, 1775. Captain Furneaux had returned to England in the Adventure a year before. As to Captain Cook, in the courſe of his voyage in the Reſolution, he had made the circuit of the ſouthern

A. D.

1780 ocean in an high latitude, and had traverſed it in ſuch a manner, as to leave not the leaſt room for poſſibility of there being a ſouthern continent, unleſs near the Pole and out of the reach of navigation. It deſerves alſo to be remembered, in honour of that able commander Captain Cook, that, with a company of 118 men, he performed this voyage of three years and eighteen days, throughout all the climates from 52 degrees north, to 71 degrees ſouth, with the loſs of only one man by ſickneſs; which extraordinary circuſtance aroſe from the great humanity of that officer, and his uncommon care and attention to the health of his crew.

Another voyage of diſcovery, and the laſt, was performed by Captain Cook and Captain Clerke, in the Reſolution and Diſcovery, during the years 1776, 1777, 1778, 1779, &c, in ſearch of a north weſt paſſage between the continents of Aſia and America. After they had arrived at the Cape of Good Hope, they proceeded from thence to New Holland. In their courſe they diſcovered two iſlands, which Captain Cook called Prince Edward's Iſles. The largeſt, about 15 leagues in circuit, is in latitude 46, 53 ſouth, longitude 37, 46. The other, about nine leagues in circuit, latitude 46, 40, and longitude 38, 8 eaſt, both barren and almoſt covered with ſnow. From New Holland they went to New Zealand, and afterwards viſited the Friendly and Society Iſles. On the 7th of February, being nearly in latitude 44 degrees, 33 minutes north, and longitude 235 degrees, 36 minutes eaſt, they ſaw part of the American continent bearing north eaſt. They afterwards diſcovered King George's Sound, which is ſituated on the north weſt coaſt of America, and is extenſive: that part of it where the ſhips under the command of Captain Cook anchored, is in latitude 49 degrees, 36 minutes north, and longitude 233 degrees, 28 minutes eaſt. On the 12th of May, they diſcovered Sandwich Sound in latitude 59 degrees, 54 minutes north. They afterwards proceeded to the Iſland Unalaſchka; and, after their departure from thence, ſtill continued to trace the American coaſt, till they diſcovered the Strait which ſeparates it from the continent of Aſia. They paſſed the Strait, and arrived, on the 20th of Auguſt, 1778, in latitude 70 degrees, 54 minutes, longitude 194 degrees, 55 minutes, where they found themſelves ſurrounded with ice, and the farther they proceeded to the eaſtward, they found the ice increaſe in reſiſtance and firmneſs. They continued labouring among the ice till the 25th, when it was reſolved, that as this paſſage was impracticable for any uſeful purpoſe of navigation, which was the great object of the voyage, it ſhould be proſecuted no farther. The voyage, indeed, afforded ſufficient evidence, that no practicable paſſage exiſts between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans towards the north, and it alſo aſcertained the weſtern boundaries of the great continent of America. On their return, this celebrated and able navigator Captain Cook was killed in an affray with the natives, on the Iſland of O'why'hee, one of the Sandwich Iſles, on the 14th of February, 1779, leaving a name to be enrolled with Columbus and Vaſquez de Gama, with Magellan, Dampier and Anſon. After the death of Captain Cook, the command devolved on Captain Clerke, who died at ſea on his return to the ſouthward, on the 22d of Auguſt, 1779.

Perhaps, no ſcience ever received greater additions from the labours of a ſingle man, than geography has done from thoſe of Captain Cook. In his firſt voyage to the South Seas, he diſcovered the Society Iſlands; determined the inſularity of New Zealand; diſcovered the ſtraits which ſeparated the two iſlands and are called after his name, and made a complete ſurvey of both. He afterwards explored the eaſtern coaſt of New Holland, hitherto unknown, an extent of 27 degrees of latitude, or upwards of 2,000 miles.

In his ſecond expedition, he reſolved the great problem of a ſouthern continent, having traverſed that hemiſphere in ſuch a manner, as not to leave a poſſibility of its exiſtence, unleſs

near

A. D. 1780 near the Pole and out of the reach of navigation. During this voyage, he diſcovered New Caledonia, the largeſt iſland in the Southern Pacific Ocean, except New Zealand; the iſland of Georgia, and an unknown coaſt, which he named Sandwich Land, the Thule of the ſouthern hemiſphere; and, having viſited the tropical ſeas, he ſettled the ſituation of the old, and made ſeveral new diſcoveries.

But the laſt voyage is diſtinguiſhed, above all the reſt, by the extent and importance of its diſcoveries. Beſides ſeveral ſmaller iſlands in the Southern Pacific, he diſcovered to the north of the equinoctial line, the group called the Sandwich Iſlands, which, from their ſituation and productions, bid fairer for becoming an object of conſequence in the ſyſtem of European navigation, than any other diſcovery in the South Sea. He afterwards explored what had hitherto remained unknown of the weſtern coaſt of America, from the latitude of 43 to 70 north, containing an extent of 3,500 miles; aſcertained the proximity of the two great continents of Aſia and America, paſſed the ſtraits between them, and ſurveyed the coaſts on each ſide to ſuch an height of northern latitude, as to demonſtrate the impracticability of a paſſage in that hemiſphere, from the Atlantic into the Pacific Ocean, either by an eaſtern or a weſtern courſe. In ſhort, if we except the ſea of Amur and the Japaneſe Archipelago, which ſtill remain imperfectly known to Europeans, he has completed the hydrography of the habitable globe. But this is not all; it was reſerved for Captain Cook, and it is by no means the leaſt part of his renown, to prove to the world, by repeated trials, that voyages may be protracted to the unuſual length of even three or four years, in unknown regions, and under every change and rigour of climate, not only without affecting the health, but even without diminiſhing the probability of life, in the ſmalleſt degree.

The following are the variations of the public funds during this year, with the higheſt and loweſt prices arranged oppoſite to each month.

	Bank Stock.	*India Stock.*	*South Sea Stock*	*S Sea Old Ann.*	*S Sea New Ann.*	*3 per ct. In. Ann.*	*3 per cent. reduc*	*3 per cent. conſol*	*3 per ct. B.* 1726	*3½ p. ct. B.* 1751	*3½ p. ct. B.* 1758	*4 per cent.* 1762	*Nav Bills.*	*Long Ann.*	*India Bonds.*	*Ann.* 1778	*4 per cent.* 1777	*Omniu. Pre.*
January,	110¼	141½	71½	60¼	60⅞	57⅛	60¾	60¼	60½	61⅞	61¾	61¼	11⅜	18⅛	1 1	11¼	78¾	—
	113	141¾	—	61	—	58½	61½	60½	—	—	—	61⅞	11	17⅛	1 7	11⅛	78⅞	—
February,	——	——	—	60¾	59¾	—	62	60	—	59⅜	62⅛	62¼	11⅞	17⅜	——	—	79½	—
	114¾	159¼	69¾	61¼	60½	59¼	61½	61	—	60	60¼	60½	11½	—	0 16	11¼	80	—
March,	——	154¾	—	60¼	60¾	59⅛	62	59⅝	—	59½	60¾	61¾	11⅞	17¼	0 7	12⅛	—	4¼
	114½	156¾	—	60⅝	59⅜	58	61⅝	61⅜	—	59	60	62⅛	10⅜	16½	0 16	12¼	—	7⅝
April,	112¾	——	—	—	59½	—	—	60⅝	—	—	61⅛	—	—	16⅞	——	—	73¾	8¼
	112	——	—	—	59¾	—	—	61	—	59⅜	60⅝	—	11½	16	1 9	—	73¼	7
May,	112¾	156½	—	58⅛	58⅛	—	59¼	60½	—	—	60¼	59⅛	11⅜	—	1 3	—	—	7½
	111¾	151	—	58¼	59¾	—	59¾	61⅛	—	—	61	59⅞	10	16⅞	1 7	12⅝	—	7¼
June,	114¼	150¾	—	58⅛	59½	—	59¼	61⅜	—	—	59¼	59	11	15	1 1	12¾	73¾	7
	110	148	—	59½	60½	57⅝	60⅝	60¼	—	—	61	60⅝	11½	17	1 7	12⅜	74⅜	8
July,	113¼	——	—	60½	—	—	60¼	62⅛	—	—	—	60¾	—	17¼	——	13⅞	74	8¾
	116½	148½	—	61⅜	—	59⅛	62¼	61⅞	—	—	—	62½	11⅛	16	1 16	12⅝	75¾	8
Auguſt,	——	152	—	60¾	61¼	—	62⅝	62¼	—	—	61⅛	62⅝	—	15	——	12¼	75¼	—
	114	150¼	71¼	61¼	60	—	61⅛	61⅛	59¾	—	61¾	61⅞	11⅜	16⅞	1 5	12⅞	75⅝	7
Septemb.	114¼	——	—	60⅞	59⅛	—	61¼	61	—	59¾	61	61½	—	—	1 3	—	75¾	—
	115½	——	—	60½	59⅞	—	61⅞	61⅝	—	59⅞	61⅞	61⅞	12	16	0 10	12⅛	75	—
October,	——	149¼	—	51¾	59⅝	56	—	60¾	—	59⅝	—	—	11½	—	——	12¾	—	—
	111¼	151	—	58¼	59	56⅞	—	61⅞	—	58¾	—	60¾	10⅞	16¾	0 7	12	—	—
Novemb.	111½	149¼	—	—	—	—	61⅜	60⅞	—	—	—	59½	—	—	0 5	—	72⅝	—
	110¾	153¼	—	51¾	59⅝	56	58	61⅝	—	59⅝	—	58	11⅛	16	0 15	12¼	72	—
Decemb.	111½	153½	—	58¾	58¼	56¾	59¼	62½	—	58½	—	59¼	11½	16⅝	0 9	12⅝	73½	—
	109½	152¼	—	57½	59	56½	58⅜	60½	—	58	—	57¾	11	16	1 12	12½	71⅝	—

1780 The following is an exact account of the annual ſupply of ſugar which has been refined or conſumed raw, in England, for the laſt fifty years, diſtinguiſhing each year.

Years.	*Cwt.*		*Years.*	*Cwt.*		*Years.*	*Cwt.*
1731,	722,445	—	1748,	866,141	—	1765,	1,074,467
1732,	700,940	—	1749,	805,313	—	1766,	1,372,480
1733,	899,510	—	1750,	807,471	—	1767,	1,313,347
1734,	650,747	—	1751,	782,167	—	1768,	1,382,929
1735,	833,740	—	1752,	789,389	—	1769,	1,282,935
1736,	819,022	—	1753,	958,371	—	1770,	1,577,171
1737,	510,121	—	1754,	816,304	—	1771,	1,254,926
1738,	814,815	—	1755,	1,072,305	—	1772,	1,569,826
1739,	887,924	—	1756,	832,994	—	1773,	1,571,569
1740,	639,803	—	1757,	1,138,423	—	1774,	1,777,414
1741,	817,674	—	1758,	914,707	—	1775,	1,640,698
1742,	681,179	—	1759,	1,030,066	—	1776,	1,478,140
1743,	744,008	—	1760,	1,202,614	—	1777,	1,207,097
1744,	666,213	—	1761,	1,128,013	—	1778,	1,324,140
1745,	472,052	—	1762,	1,120,821	—	1779,	1,378,337
1746,	642,523	—	1763,	1,350,456	—	1780,	1,221,795
1747,	556,523	—	1764,	1,246,890			

An account of corn and grain exported from, and imported into England and Scotland.

EXPORTED.			*IMPORTED.*	
1780.	*British*	*Foreign*	1780.	*Quarters.*
ENGLAND.	*Qrs.*	*Qrs.*	ENGLAND.	
Wheat, —	63,240	7,067	Wheat, —	1,662
Wheat Flour,	136,939	932	Wheat Flour,	1,378
Rye, —	6,305	——	Barley, —	352
Barley, —	32,956	2,407	Oats, —	189,964
Malt, —	135,077	——	Oatmeal, —	612
Oats, —	8,904	8,726	Beans, —	7,406
Oatmeal, —	916	449	Peas, —	17,719
Beans, —	12,554	2,357		
Peas, —	3,517	3,131		
SCOTLAND.			SCOTLAND.	
Wheat, —	773	——	Wheat Flour, —	873
Wheat Flour,	15,101	——	Oats, —	4,667
Barley and Bear,	18,706	——		
Malt, —	2,415	——		
Oats, —	3,330	——		
Oatmeal,	4,696	——		
Peas and Beans,	1,380	——		

	cwt.	*qrs.*	*lb.*		*cwt.*	*qrs.*	*lb.*
Biſcuit, —	12,613	1	23	Biſcuit, —	284	0	17

The bounties and drawbacks on corn exported from England, amounted to 70,513l. 10s. 6¾d.

The amount of the bounties paid on grain exported from Scotland, was 7,232l. 3s. 6½d.

The duties on corn imported into England, was 1,067l. 11d.; and in Scotland, to 60l. 11s. 0½d.

The

A. D. 1780 The average prices of corn in England and Wales, by the ſtandard Wincheſter buſhel, this year, were: wheat, 4s. 5½d.; rye, 2s. 9d¼.; barley, 2s. 1½d.; oats, 1s. 7¼d.; beans, 2s. 9¼d.

An account of coals imported into the port of London for ten years, ending at Chriſtmas 1779.

Years.	*Chaldrons.*	*Years.*	*Chaldrons.*
1770	615,330	1775	672,785
1771	694,003	1776	700,207
1772	725,908	1777	694,437
1773	624,781	1778	647,361
1774	623,727	1779	587,895

Of ſalted proviſions, there were exported from England alone, during the courſe of this year, as follows:

Iriſh beef,	9,844	Barrels.
Iriſh pork,	3,471	Ditto.
Engliſh beef and pork,	4,480	Ditto.
Engliſh bacon,	3,369	Flitches.
Engliſh tripe,	1,582	Kegs.

Of pickled fiſh, there were exported from England alone,—

Red herrings,	1,816	Barrels.
White ditto,	7,281	Ditto.
Salmon,	109	Ditto.
Pilchards,	1,188	Hogſheads.

Of butter, cheeſe, and beer, there were exported from England only,—

Iriſh butter,	9,844	Hundred-weight.
Engliſh ditto,	274	Firkins.
Engliſh cheeſe,	3,660	Hundred-weight.
Beer,	2,042	Tuns.

Of wheat-flour, oat-meal, bread, barley, peas, beans, &c. there were exported to the Britiſh Weſt Indies, from England,—

Wheat-flour,	35,907	Quarters.
Oat-meal,	758	Ditto.
Bread,	32,587	Hundred-weight.
Barley,	256	Quarters.
Peas,	1,116	Ditto.
Beans,	12,291	Ditto.
Oats,	8,006	Ditto.
Wheat,	1,146	Ditto.
Rye,	1,116	Ditto.

In this year, 130 bounty veſſels were at the fiſhery in Lough Swilly, which is the principal herring fiſhery in Ireland: they expended, in the cure of fiſh, 1,708 tons of ſalt; which ſalt cured in bulk, (allowing 30 maize, or 15,000 fiſh, to one ton of ſalt) 51,240 maize. Seventy-one veſſels alſo from Liverpool and the Iſle of Man, purchaſed cargoes in Lough Swilly for their red-herring houſes.

A. D.

1780 The number of ſhips which were employed from England in the whale-fiſhery, to Davis's Straits and the Greenland ſeas, in the courſe of this year, amounted to 52:—The bounty at 30s. per ton.

The number of ſhips from Holland in the ſame trade, amounted, during the ſame period, to eighty-two.

Of woollen cloths, there were imported into Ireland from Great Britain in this year,

Old drapery,	— —	64,346 Yards.
New drapery,	— .	159,428 Ditto.
Total yards,		223,774

The quantity of linen exported from Ireland to Spain and Portugal, in the year ending the 25th of March, 1780, amounted to 157,396 yards, plain and coloured.

The firſt export entry of woollen from Ireland, at the cuſtom-houſe, Dublin, ſince the reſtrictions on the trade of that kingdom were taken off, was made by William Worthington, Eſq. of 1300 yards of ſerge, for Liſbon.

☞ We have here annexed a CHRONOLOGICAL ACCOUNT of COMMERCE in this ISLAND, from the Reſtoration to the year 1780 incluſive; which exhibits a clearer view of the weakneſs of its commencement, the ſtruggles of its progreſs, and the greatneſs of its preſent maturity, than has yet been done. For this account, as well as for much uſeful inſtruction, we are indebted to the excellent publications of Mr. Chalmers.

In the firſt column of this table may be ſeen the various epochs, beginning with the Reſtoration, whence certainty may be ſaid to commence, and ending with the year 1780. The ſecond column gives the tonnage of the ſhipping that ſucceſſively ſailed from England, diſtinguiſhing the Engliſh from the foreign, in order to find, in the amount of each, the ſalutary effects of the act of navigation. The third column contains the value of the merchandize ſent out, that the extent of the cargoes may be compared with the quantity of tonnage which carried them: and though the Scotch tonnage could not be adjoined, the value of the Scotch exports is added, becauſe every one finds a gratification in extending his views. The fourth column exhibits the reſult of our exports and imports compared, which forms what has been denominated the balance of trade. The fifth column ſtates the nett cuſtoms, as far as they could be aſcertained, which our foreign commerce has yielded at different periods; becauſe, while the detail gratifies curioſity, it furniſhes no deſpicable proof of the proſperity or decline of our traffic. And the laſt column contains, what may be regarded as the reſult of the whole, the ſums which have been coined in England during every reign; ſince "the mint," as Sir Robert Cotton expreſſes it, "is the pulſe of the commonwealth."

On the 26th of December died, in the 75th year of his age, Thomas Hope, Eſq. well known, in the trading world, as one of the firſt commercial characters any age has produced. He was deſcended from the elder branch of the family of Hope in Scotland, and by an unremitted exertion of great natural talents, and the practice of unvarying integrity, he raiſed the credit and affluence of the houſe at Amſterdam, which continues to bear his name, to ſuch an height as perhaps was never attained by a houſe of trade in any country.

The following bills, relating to trade and commerce, received the royal aſſent in the courſe of this year:—

A bill for the better ſupplying of his Majeſty's navy with mariners, and ſeamen to ſerve on board tranſport ſhips, &c.

To

A CHRONOLOGICAL ACCOUNT of COMMERCE in this IS

Epochs.		*Ships cleared outwards.*			*Value of Cargoes exported.*		
		Tons English.	Dº Foreign.	Total.	English.	Scotch.	Total.
The Restoration,	1663 1669	95,266	47,634	142,900	£. 2,043,043	—	£. 2,043,043
The Revolution,	1668	190,533	95,267	285,800	4,086,087	—	4,086,087
Peace of Ryſwick,	1697	144,267	100,524	244,788	3,525,907	—	3,525,907
Laſt years of William III.	1700 01 02	273,693	43,635	317,328	6,045,432	—	6,045,432
Wars of Anne,	1709	243,693	45,625	289,318	5,913,357	—	5,913,357
	1712	326,620	29,115	355,725	6,868,840	—	6,868,840
Firſt of George I.	1713 14 15	421,431	26,573	448,004	7,696,573	—	7,696,573
Firſt of George II.	1726 27 28	432,832	23,651	456,483	7,951,772	—	7,951,772
Peaceful years,	1736 37 38	476,941	26,627	501,673	9,993,232	—	9,993,232
War of - -	1739 40 41	384,191	87,260	471,451	8,869,498	—	8,869,498
Peaceful years,	1749 50 51	609,798	51,386	661,184	12,599,112	—	12,599,112
War of - -	1755 56 57	451,254	73,456	524,711	11,708,515	663,401	12,371,916
Firſt of George III.	1760	471,241	102,737	573,978	14,694,970	1,086,205	15,781,175
	61	508,220	117,835	626,055	14,873,191	1,165,722	16,038,913
	62	480,444	120,126	600,560	13,545,171	998,165	14,543,336
	63	561,724	87,293	649,217	14,487,507	1,091,436	15,578,943
	64	583,934	74,800	658,734	16,512,404	1,243,927	17,756,331
	65	651,402	67,855	719,257	14,550,507	1,180,867	15,731,374
	66	684,281	61,753	746,034	14,024,964	1,163,704	15,188,668
	67	645,835	63,206	709,041	13,844,511	1,245,490	15,090,001
	68	668,786	72,734	741,520	15,117,983	1,502,150	16,620,133
	69	709,855	63,020	772,875	13,438,236	1,563,053	15,001,289
	1770	703,495	57,476	760,971	14,266,654	1,729,915	15,996,569
	71	714,835	64,680	779,515	17,161,147	1,857,334	19,018,481
	72	716,861	76,415	793,276	16,159,413	1,560,756	17,720,169
	73	752,836	55,284	808,120	14,763,253	1,612,175	16,375,428
	74	798,864	65,192	864,056	15,916,344	1,372,143	17,288,487
	75	767,282	64,046	831,328	15,202,366	1,123,998	16,326,364
	76	778,878	72,188	851,066	13,729,726	1,025,973	14,755,699
	77	736,234	83,468	819,702	12,653,363	837,643	13,491,006
	78	657,238	98,113	755,351	11,551,070	702,820	12,253,890
	79	590,911	139,124	730,035	12,693,430	837,273	13,530,700
	1780	619,462	134,515	753,977	11,622,333	1,002,039	12,624,372

G.R III
BRITISH MUSEUM

ISLAND, from the RESTORATION to the Year 1780, incluſive.

Balance of Trade. English.	Scotch.	Total.	Nett Cuſtoms Engliſh.	Money coined.	
Unfavourable.	—	—	£. 390,000	By Charles II. By James II.	£. 7,524,105 2,737,637
Doubtful.	—	—	551,141		£. 10,261,742
£. 43,320	—	£. 43,320	694,892	By William III.	£. 10,511,963
1,386,832	—	1,386,832	1,474,861		
2,116,451	—	2,116,451	1,273,587	By Anne,	£. 2,691,626
3,014,175	—	3,014,175	—		
1,904,151	—	1,904,151	1,588,496	By George I.	£. 8,725,921
3,514,768	—	3,514,768	—		
4,642,502	—	4,642,502	—		
2,455,313	—	2,455,313	—		
6,521,964	—	6,521,964	—	By George II. Gold, Silver,	£. 11,662,216 304,360
4,046,465	—	4,046,465	1,855,334		£. 11,966,576
5,746,270	235,412	5,981,682			
6,822,051	417,082	7,239,133	2,076,735		
5,263,858	289,240	5,553,098			
4,495,146	187,545	4,682,691			
6,148,096	357,575	6,505,671			
3,660,764	258,466	3,919,230			
2,549,189	182,715	2,731,904			
1,770,555	222,293	1,992,848			
3,239,322	265,501	3,504,823			
1,529,676	337,523	1,867,199			
2,049,716	514,556	2,564,272			
4,339,151	471,005	4,810,156			
2,860,961	350,492	3,211,453	2,503,353		
3,356,412	496,376	3,852,788			
2,888,678	169,866	3,058,544			
2,275,003	—	2,275,003			
2,962,424	279,292	3,242,716		By George III. before the 31ſt of Dec. 1780. Gold, Silver,	£. 30,457,805 - 7,126
1,472,996	35,389	1,508,385			
1,379,653	—	1,379,653			
2,092,133	62,501	2,154,634	2,412,993		£. 30,464,931
1,688,494	99,315	1,787,809			

A. D. 1780 To repeal ſo much of an act made in the 19th year of Henry VII, or of any other acts which prohibit the exportation of coin out of this realm into Ireland; and ſo much of certain acts which prohibit the importation of foreign hops into Ireland, and which take off the drawback upon hops exported from Great Britain to Ireland; and to allow the importation into, and exportation from Ireland, of ſuch goods as may be imported into, and exported from Great Britain, by the merchants of England trading to the Levant ſeas.

To continue ſeveral laws relating to the better ſecuring the lawful trade of his Majeſty's ſubjects to and from the Eaſt Indies, and for the more effectual preventing all his Majeſty's ſubjects trading thither under foreign commiſſions, &c.

For laying additional duties upon wines and vinegar imported into this kingdom.

To protect goods, &c. of the growth of the iſlands of Grenada and the Grenadines, on board neutral veſſels, bound to neutral ports, during the preſent hoſtilities.

For allowing a bounty on the exportation of Britiſh corn and grain, in ſhips of any kingdom in amity with his Majeſty.

For laying ſeveral additional duties on certain goods imported into the Iſle of Man, and for the better regulating the trade, and ſecuring the revenues of the ſaid iſland.

For continuing to the Eaſt India Company the poſſeſſion of the territorial acquiſitions and revenues in the Eaſt Indies; and alſo for continuing certain regulations, for the better management of the affairs of that company.

For appointing and enabling commiſſioners to examine the public accounts of the kingdom

To prevent the carrying copper in ſheets coaſt-ways, &c.

To extend and encourage the Greenland fiſhery.

For regulating the drawbacks on the duty on coffee, &c.

And for granting a reward to perſons diſcovering the longitude.

SUPPLIES granted by Parliament for this year:—	£.	s.	d.
For 85,000 ſeamen, including 18,779 marines, ordnance, &c.	4,420,000	0	0
For the ordinary of the navy, &c. — — —	85,381	7	6
Towards building and repairing ſhips of war, —	697,903	0	0
Towards diſcharging the debt of the navy, — —	1,500,000	0	0
For 35,005 land-forces, including 4,213 invalids, &c.	946,176	3	5
For the pay of the general and ſtaff-officers, &c. — —	44,875	8	3
For maintaining forces and garriſons out of the kingdom,	1,418,059	1	2
For five Hanoverian battalions ſerving at Gibraltar and Minorca,	56,228	11	11½
For the charge of 13,472 Heſſian troops and ſubſidy, —	367,892	19	4
For ditto of two regiments of foot of Hanau and ſubſidy, —	35,510	19	4
Ditto of one regiment of Waldeck, and ſubſidy, —	17,529	11	9
For the charge of 4,300 Brunſwickers, — —	94,173	12	4½
For ditto of 1,447 troops of the Margrave of Anſpach, &c. —	39,718	18	1½
For a corps of foot of Anhalt Zerbſt, with the ſubſidy, &c. —	16,661	6	4½
For proviſions for the foreign troops ſerving in America, —	48,801	10	6
For artillery for the foreign troops, — —	27,741	10	0
For the militia, and four regiments of fencible men in North Britain,	653,926	2	0
For the cloathing of the militia, — — —	96,183	4	2
Carried forward,	10,566,763	6	3

	£.	s.	d.
Brought over,	10,566,763	6	3
For additional militia companies, &c. to ditto for the year 1778,	8,943	13	8
For the new levies ordered to be raiſed for this year, —	258,206	18	0
For the charge of Lieutenant Colonel Fullarton's corps for 365 days,	8,623	17	6
For ditto of Lieutenant Colonel Holroyd's corps of light dragoons for 366 days, — — — — —	3,179	12	6
For ditto of Major General Rainsford's regiment of foot for 305 days,	12,929	9	2
For ditto of Lieutenant Colonel Humberſton's corps for 305 days,	8,623	17	6
For the charge of out-penſioners of Chelſea Hoſpital, &c. —	87,718	0	0
For additional companies, &c. to the militia of South Britain, for 1780,	11,712	9	6
To make good the deficiency on the pay of additional companies, &c. to the militia of South Britain, for 1779. — —	468	15	8
For the charge of the new levies, from their reſpective eſtabliſhments, to the 24th of December, 1779, — — —	30,296	16	8
On account of the reduced officers of his Majeſty's land forces, &c.	82,905	2	0
For allowances to ſeveral officers and private gentlemen of the two reduced troops of horſe-guards, &c. — —	608	6	6
For extra army expences, &c. not provided for by Parliament,	2,418,805	18	11½
For the charge of the office of ordnance for the land ſervice, &c.	458,136	9	11
For ſervices performed by ditto for ditto, not provided for in 1779,	591,466	0	11
To Dr. William Smith, for attendance on the ſick and deceaſed priſoners in the gaols of Middleſex, Weſtminſter, and Southwark, for near four years, and for medicines for their uſe, &c. —	1,200	0	0
To the Levant Company, — — —	10,000	0	0
On account of new roads and bridges in the Highlands of North Britain,	6,997	4	3
To the Britiſh Muſeum, — — —	3,500	0	0
To make good to his Majeſty the like ſum iſſued by his Majeſty's orders, in purſuance of the addreſſes of the Houſe of Commons,	15,700	0	0
To Mr. Duncan Campbell, for employing convicts on the Thames,	14,348	2	9
For the relief of certain American civil officers, &c. —	57,910	12	0
On account of general ſurveys in North America, —	1,832	5	0
Towards carrying on the buildings at Somerſet Houſe, —	25,000	0	0
For the civil eſtabliſhment of the iſland of St. John, —	3,150	0	0
Ditto of Georgia, — — — —	2,866	0	0
Ditto of Nova Scotia, — — —	4,796	0	0
Ditto of Eaſt Florida, — — —	3,950	0	0
Ditto of Weſt Florida, — — —	3,900	0	0
For repairing, &c. Britiſh forts and ſettlements on the coaſt of Africa,	13,000	0	0
Towards diſcharging certain Exchequer bills, —	1,500,000	0	0
For diſcharging certain other Exchequer bills, —	1,000,000	0	0
For ditto, — — — —	1,900,000	0	0
For diſcharging the prizes of the lottery of 1779, —	490,000	0	0
Carried over,	19,607,538	18	8½

A. D.
1780

	£.	s.	d.
Brought over,	19,607,538	18	8½
To replace to the ſinking fund the like ſum paid out of the ſame, to make good the deficiency of the fund for paying certain annuities, &c.	37,372	18	9½
For ditto, — — — —	332,856	4	5½
For ditto, — — —	167,036	14	1½
To make good the deficiency of the grants for the ſervice of the year 1779,	300,687	0	7
To make good certain other deficiencies in the grants of ditto,	301,004	16	1½
Deficiency in the land-tax, — — —	250,000	0	0
Ditto in the malt-tax, — — —	200,000	0	0
Total Supplies,	21,196,496	12	9½

The Ways and Means for raiſing the foregoing ſupplies.	£.	s.	d.
Duty on malt, — — —	705,000	0	0
Land tax at 4s. — — —	2,000,000	0	0
By annuities and lottery, — — —	12,480,000	0	0
By certain ſurpluſſes of the ſinking fund, — —	650,457	18	0
By monies remaining in the Exchequer of the deduction of ſixpence in the pound out of all monies paid upon ſalaries, penſions, &c. from the crown,	25,560	0	0
By other monies remaining in the Exchequer, — —	3,761	13	4½
By Exchequer bills, — — —	1,500,000	0	0
By ditto, — — — —	1,900,000	0	0
By the ſinking fund, — — — —	1,849,542	1	11¾
By ſeveral ſums ariſing from ſtoppages for proviſions for the detachment of artillery ſerving in North America, &c. —	14,405	18	6
By ſavings out of the grant for the charge of new levies, &c.	20,717	7	4
By other ſavings, &c. — — — —	123,998	7	4
By certain ſums in the hands of the paymaſter-general, —	48,300	0	0
By ditto remaining in the Exchequer, — —	10,506	5	2½
By a certain ſum which had been granted for building a lazaret,	5,000	0	0
Total of Ways and Means, —	21,382,249	11	8¾
Supplies granted, —	21,196,496	12	9½
Exceſs of proviſions, —	185,752	18	11¼

☞ A vote of credit of one million was alſo granted this ſeſſion, and is charged on the next aids.

	£.	s.	d.
The additional public debt funded and provided for this year, amounted to twelve millions; the intereſt of which, at 4 per cent. per annum, is	480,000	0	0
The annuity for 80 years. at 1l. 16s. 3d. per cent. per annum, is	216,150	0	0
In all, per annum,	696,150	0	0

This

1780 This ſum was propoſed to be raiſed in the following manner:—

	£.	s.	d.
Additional duty on malt, of 6d. per buſhel, — —	310,000	0	0
Ditto on low wines, of 1d. per gallon, — —	20,617	0	0
Ditto on ſpirits, of 3d. per do. — — —	34,557	0	0
Ditto on brandy, of 1s. per do. —— ——	35,310	0	0
Ditto on rum, of 1s. per do. — — —	70,958	0	0
Ditto on foreign wines, of 4l. per tun on Portugal wines, and of 8l. per tun on French wines, — — —	72,000	0	0
A duty on coals exported, of 4s. per Newcaſtle chaldron, —	12,899	0	0
Additional duty of 5l. per cent. on the above duties, —	46,193	0	0
Additional duty of 1s. 10d. per buſhel on ſalt, — —	69,000	0	0
Ditto on advertiſements, of 6d. each, — — —	9,000	0	0
A ſtamp duty on the receipt for any legacy, or for any ſhare of a perſonal eſtate divided under the ſtatute of diſtributions, or the cuſtom of any province or place, of 2s. 6d. if the value ſhall not exceed 20l.; and of 5s. if above 20l. and not amounting to 100l.; and of 20s. if 100l. or upwards, —— —— —— ——	12,000	0	0
On dealers in coffee, tea, and chocolate, for a licence, 5s. annually,	9,000	0	0
In all, —	701,534	0	0
Intereſt of public debt funded, &c.	696,150	0	0
Exceſs of new taxes, —	5,384	0	0

An account of the chriſtenings and burials within the bills of mortality in London, from December 14, 1779, to December 12, 1780.

Chriſtened, males	8,581	Buried, males	10,206
——— females	8,053	—— females	10,311
	16,634		20,517

1781 In the courſe of the preceding year, the war between Great Britain and America had been carried on with conſiderable ſucceſs on the part of the former: the utmoſt ardour had been diſplayed by the royal troops; Charleſtown, and the whole province of South Carolina, had been ſubdued, and other very ſignal advantages obtained by the Britiſh arms. But notwithſtanding theſe favourable circumſtances, no proſpect appeared of any ſpeedy termination of the war. The authority of Great Britain continued to be acknowledged in thoſe places alone of which the King's troops were in poſſeſſion, and for no longer a period than during their continuance in them: indeed, throughout the American continent, the moſt determined averſion was in general manifeſted to the government of the mother country. The dangers of the latter were now alſo encreaſed by the war with Holland, and the rupture with that republic naturally augmented the difficulties, and leſſened the extent of the national trade. The alliance between France and the revolted colonies, had not indeed been ſo beneficial to the latter as might have been expected; and the French miniſtry ſeemed to poſſeſs a greater ſolicitude to encreaſe their poſſeſſions in the Weſt Indies, than to afford any ſubſtantial aſſiſtance to their American

American allies. In Europe, no effects had yet been produced in any degree proportionable to the vaſt armaments that had iſſued forth from the ports of France and of Spain; and by which, though great alarm had been excited, little or nothing had been performed.

The new Parliament met on the 31ſt of October in the laſt year, and, on the day following, his Majeſty addreſſed both Houſes in a ſpeech from the throne; in which he informed them, that it was with more than ordinary ſatisfaction, he met them in Parliament, at a time, when the late elections might afford him an opportunity of receiving the moſt certain information of the diſpoſition and wiſhes of his people, to which he was always inclined to pay the utmoſt attention and regard. His Majeſty further obſerved, that by the force which the laſt Parliament had put in his hands, &c. he had been able to withſtand the formidable attempts of his enemies, and to fruſtrate the great expectations they had formed; and he truſted, that the ſignal ſucceſſes which had attended the progreſs of his arms in the provinces of Georgia and Carolina would have important conſequences, and tend towards bringing the war to an happy concluſion. It was his moſt earneſt deſire to ſee this great end accompliſhed; but he was confident, that they would agree with him in opinion, that ſafe and honourable terms of peace could be ſecured only by ſuch powerful and reſpectable preparations, as ſhould convince their enemies, that they would not ſubmit to receive the law from any powers whatever; and that they were united in a firm reſolution to decline no difficulty or hazard, in the defence of their country, and for the preſervation of their eſſential intereſts. His Majeſty further declared, that he ſaw and felt, with great anxiety and concern, that the various ſervices of the war muſt, unavoidably, be attended with great and heavy expences; but he deſired them to grant him ſuch ſupplies only, as their own ſecurity and laſting welfare, and the exigency of affairs ſhould be found to require. The motion for an addreſs of thanks, produced an animated diſcuſſion of the further progreſs of the American war. A bill to continue the ſuſpenſion of the Habeas Corpus Act, moved to be brought in by Sir Grey Cooper, was oppoſed with much ſpirited but unſucceſsful animadverſion,—the navy eſtimates occaſioned ſome violence of debate,—even the thanks of the Houſe to Sir Henry Clinton and Lord Cornwallis, for the ſervices rendered to their country in the reduction of Charleſtown and the victory of Camden, were not given without much ſevere obſervation: however, the land and malt taxes were paſſed as matters of courſe;—the ſucceeding Parliamentary tranſactions, previous to the receſs, paſſed off without any particular or lengthened debates; and, on the ſixth of December, the Houſe of Commons adjourned to the 23d of January in the preſent year.

The intrigues of France had never been ſo ſucceſsful againſt Great Britain as in the preſent war. She had contrived to kindle an unextinguiſhable flame in the North American colonies;—ſhe had perſuaded Spain, againſt the evident intereſt of that monarchy, to unite with her in aſſerting their independence;—ſhe had involved the Seven United Provinces in the quarrel with their antient and firm ally;—nay, ſhe had drawn all Europe, as it were, into a confederacy for the deſtruction of the naval power of this country, and had not only deprived it of all its allies, but ſeems to have poſſeſſed the art of directing the public wiſhes of mankind to the downfall of the Britiſh empire.

In the midſt of this ſtorm, Britain appeared, however, to brave its enemies, not only by the greatneſs of her ſpirit with which ſhe encountered them, but by thoſe wonderful reſources which as yet manifeſted no ſign of being exhauſted. In the beginning of this year, the maritime ſtrength of all Europe was drawn out againſt her; but the liſt of her fleets and armies afforded them no reaſon to hope that her power was on the decline. Her internal defence was

provided

provided for in ſuch a manner, as precluded all expectations of making the leaſt impreſſion upon this iſland; ſhe had numerous forces in the Eaſt and Weſt Indies, and was making the moſt vigorous efforts in America. Her navy, at this time, was on a moſt formidable eſtabliſhment; it conſiſted of no leſs than 430 veſſels, in the beſt poſſible condition, and manned with the beſt ſeamen in Europe. The fleets of France, Spain and Holland, were but in a ſmall degree ſuperior to thoſe of Great Britain in numbers, and very far inferior to them in conſtruction and equipment. The ſailors, thoſe of Holland excepted, were chiefly compoſed of landſmen unaccuſtomed and very averſe to that element on which they ſerved. France, with all its exertions, did not reckon more than 264 veſſels of all rates; Spain could not boaſt of more than 124, and Holland counted but 60. The reſidue of the European marine in actual commiſſion, among thoſe powers which formed the armed neutrality, amounted to no more than 80 ſhips of all ſizes. Of thoſe, 29 belonged to Ruſſia, 30 to Sweden, and 25 to Denmark. Such were the eſtimates of the naval force of the maritime powers of Europe, about the commencement of this year 1781.

France had, it is true, obtained ſome advantage in the Weſt Indies, but notwithſtanding the parade with which her fleet, in conjunction with that of Spain, had appeared on the Britiſh coaſt, nothing of the leaſt conſequence had been hitherto effected. The only attempt ſhe had ventured to make in the Channel, was on the Iſland of Jerſey, in the year 1779, and in that ſhe had compleatly failed. Irritated, as we may ſuppoſe, at the diſgrace of not having been able to poſſeſs herſelf of an iſland, which is ſituated in the vicinity, and was in ſight of her own ſhore, ſhe made another, and, as it proved, a fruitleſs attempt at the commencement of the preſent year.

On the 6th of January, upwards of 800 French troops, under the command of the Baron de Rullecourt, a man of undoubted courage, but of an impetuous diſpoſition, made good their landing on that iſland. And, ſo totally neglectful were the militia guard of their duty, that the French not only effected their landing with the utmoſt privacy, but, to the utmoſt aſtoniſhment of the inhabitants, had taken poſſeſſion of the market place of St. Helier, the principal town of the iſland, ſoon after the day began to dawn, without a ſingle gun having been fired, or the leaſt alarm given from any quarter; and, having ſeized on a body of men that guarded the town, together with the commanding officer and magiſtrates of the iſland, he drew up a capitulation, the terms of which were, that the iſland ſhould be immediately ſurrendered to France, and the garriſon be ſent to England. With this propoſition, he demanded an inſtant compliance, and declared, in caſe of a refuſal, that he would ſet fire to the town, and put the inhabitants to the ſword. Major Corbet, the lieutenant governor, and the magiſtrates repreſented to him, that, being in his power, no authority of theirs could be valid, and that the troops would of courſe refuſe obedience to them. But the French commander perſiſted in his requiſition and menaces, the capitulation was ſigned in order to prevent him carrying them into execution. Having gained this point, Baron Rullecourt advanced to Elizabeth Caſtle, near the town, which he ſummoned to ſurrender; but the garriſon returned him a peremptory refuſal, and made ſo vigorous a diſcharge of their artillery upon his troops, as obliged him to retire into the town. In the mean time, the Britiſh troops, under the command of Major Pierſon, who was next in ſeniority to the lieutenant governor, together with the militia of the iſland, aſſembled upon the heights near the town; when the French General ſent a requiſition to them to conform to the capitulation; but received for anſwer, that if the French did not lay down their arms, and ſurrender themſelves priſoners within twenty minutes, he would

attack

A. D. 1781 attack them. Accordingly, Major Pierſon, having made a very able diſpoſition of his ſmall body of forces, they attacked the enemy with ſuch vigour and impetuoſity, that in leſs than half an hour from the commencement of the action, the French General being mortally wounded, the officer next in command deſired Major Corbet to reſume the government and to accept their ſubmiſſion as priſoners of war. But the brilliance of this ſucceſs, was diminiſhed by the death of that excellent officer Major Pierſon, who unhappily fell by one of the laſt diſcharges from the French troops. He was but in the twenty-fifth year of his age, and had diſplayed ſuch military abilities on this occaſion, as juſtified the higheſt expectations of the profeſſional character he would have attained, had he been ſo fortunate as to ſurvive. He was ſincerely lamented, not only by the ſoldiery and inhabitants of Jerſey, but by the whole nation.

Hoſtilities were commenced againſt the Dutch by a detention of their ſhipping in the different parts of England, and by the capture of two men of war of 54 guns. On the granting of letters of marque and repriſals againſt them, a multitude of privateers was added to thoſe already in commiſſion, and a very great number of the Dutch merchantmen were brought into the Britiſh ports. Inſtructions were alſo diſpatched at the ſame time to the commanders of the Britiſh forces in the Weſt Indies, to proceed to immediate hoſtilities, againſt the Dutch ſettlements in thoſe parts.

Admiral Rodney was returned from his expedition to North America, and was preparing to attack ſuch of the French iſlands as ſeemed to be the leaſt capable of defence, when he was apprized of the rupture with Holland, and directed to commence hoſtilities againſt its poſſeſſions in the Weſt Indies. The moſt important of theſe was the iſland of St. Euſtatius, commonly called Statia. This iſland, barren and contemptible in itſelf, had long been the ſeat of a very great and lucrative commerce, and might, indeed, be conſidered as the grand free port of the Weſt Indies and America, and as a general magazine to all nations. Its richeſt harveſts were, however, during the ſeaſons of warfare among its neighbours, in conſequence of its neutral ſtate and ſituation, with its unbounded as well as unreſtrained freedom of trade. At this time, therefore, it was, of courſe, open to the ſubjects of all the powers at war, and deriving immenſe profits from the commerce carried on in conſequence of ſuch a privilege. The Dutch, under whoſe mediation all trading buſineſs was tranſacted, reaped prodigious advantage from the innumerable commiſſions with which they were entruſted, and from the vaſt ſale of thoſe articles of merchandize, which they alone could diſpoſe of to the ſubjects of the belligerent powers in that part of the globe.

Such was the ſituation of this iſland, when Admiral Rodney, on the third of February in this year, appeared before it, with a naval and land force which it was in no condition to reſiſt. It ſurrendered, therefore, without any ſtipulations. The wealth found in this place, was ſo great as to excite the aſtoniſhment of the captors, notwithſtanding their previous intimate knowledge of its nature and circumſtances. The whole iſland appeared to be one enormous magazine; for not only the vaſt ſtorehouſes were crammed with merchandize of every kind, but even the beach was covered with hogſheads of ſugar and tobacco. The value of the commodities was eſtimated by a looſe, but ſuppoſed moderate calculation, as being conſiderably above three millions ſterling. But this was only a part of the prize; the capture of ſhipping was immenſe: upwards of 200 ſail of merchantmen were taken, many of which were very richly laden, beſides a ſhip of 60 guns, a frigate of 40, and five other veſſels of inferior force. The intelligence of this event was the more agreeably received in England, as the loſs, which was

1781 was among the ſevereſt that Holland could have received, fell chiefly upon the city of Amſterdam. The French and Americans were alſo conſiderable ſufferers, and not a few of the Britiſh merchants; who, truſting to the neutrality of the place, had conſigned valuable cargoes to their correſpondents there; all of which were ſeized by the Britiſh commanders as Dutch property.

The Dutch Governor, on ſurrendering the town, &c. had recommended it and the inhabitants to the mercy of the Britiſh commanders. But the latter thought themſelves juſtified, by the partial and even zealous conduct of thoſe inhabitants in favour of the enemies of Great Britain, in treating them with a degree of rigour not commonly exerciſed towards an enemy who has ſurrendered at diſcretion. All the property found upon the iſland, both public and private, was declared to be confiſcated, and was treated according to the ſevereſt rules of confiſcation. Sales for the diſpoſal of it commenced on the 15th of March, and notice was given, in the Carribbean Gazette, that all perſons who would come to the iſland in order to purchaſe, ſhould have whatever they bought properly ſecured to them. The goods purchaſed at theſe ſales were ſuppoſed to be ſold at about one fourth of their value, and were permitted to be ſhipped off in Engliſh or neutral bottoms, for the purpoſe of conveying them to any of the Engliſh or neutral iſlands.

Beſides the iſland of St. Euſtatius, the neighbouring iſlands of St. Martin and Saba ſurrendered at diſcretion. Admiral Rodney and General Vaughan added, likewiſe, to their former conqueſts, the French iſland of St. Bartholomew, and the Dutch colonies of Demerary and Iſſequibo on the Spaniſh main, but to theſe they thought proper to afford the more favourable conditions of leaving the inhabitants in poſſeſſion of their property. The fact appears to be, that no ſuſpicions lay againſt them of having acted a treacherous part to Great Britain, by doing every poſſible ſervice to her enemies, which had been the conduct of the people of St. Euſtatius; who, while they ſupplied the French and Americans with immenſe quantities of warlike ſtores, &c. refuſed, under various pretences, to ſupply the occaſional demands made by ſhips belonging to Great Britain. A number of Dutch veſſels in the river Demerary, were alſo taken by two ſloops of his Britannic Majeſty; and the Dutch ſettlement of Berbicia, a few leagues diſtant from Demerary, together with ſeveral veſſels, was taken by a ſquadron of privateers, who aſſociated for that purpoſe.

As this is a commercial queſtion of conſiderable importance, we ſhall give thoſe papers at large, which will afford the beſt elucidation of it.

To their Excellencies Sir George Brydges Rodney, Baronet, &c. &c. and the Honourable General John Vaughan, Commanders in Chief of his Majeſty's Fleets and Armies in the Weſt Indies, &c.

The Memorial and Remonſtrance of the Merchants of St. Chriſtopher for themſelves, and as Agents and Factors for many of the moſt commercial Houſes in Great Britain and Ireland.

“ Your Excellencies having refuſed the requeſt of our former memorial, we have thought it neceſſary to intrude upon you with a ſecond application, that we may not be wanting in all due reſpect to your Excellencies characters; that our proceedings may be conducted with that caution and deliberation which is conſiſtent with the equity of our demands; and that you may be made acquainted with our determination, in caſe thoſe demands continue to be refuſed.

"We have already repreſented, that our property, and that of our conſtituents, fairly bought, under the ſanction of acts of Parliament, with their and our money, has been forcibly taken from us, without our being allowed to mark or number the packages, and without knowing on what ſhips they were to be loaded. We have now to add to that information, that inſurances for ſome of thoſe very goods have been ordered to be made in England, before the capture of the iſland, on ſhips engaged for the purpoſe of carrying them to Great Britain, and now actually in this port. As by theſe means our property is wreſted out of our hands, and the inſurers abſolved from their engagements, we conſider your Excellencies, and thoſe employed under you, as anſwerable for all riſques whatever of ſea as well as the enemy, until the delivery of our goods into the hands of our reſpective correſpondents in England; and your Excellencies will not be ſurprized at our uſing all the means which the laws of our country have provided for us to ſeek redreſs. This is a duty we owe to ourſelves, our families, our creditors, and our conſtituents, however diſagreeable it muſt be to have any diſputes with gentlemen, whom we have always conſidered as the protectors of our perſons and fortunes. In this application for ourſelves, we wiſh it to be underſtood, that the property of all the inhabitants of the captured iſlands is included, that may have been forcibly taken off from St. Euſtatius, in the ſame manner that ours have been. Their produce was brought and ours purchaſed there, under the ſanction of acts of Parliament; and in whatever light men of your high rank and elevated ſtations may conſider ſuch authorities, we have been taught to look up to them with reverence and veneration, and have always underſtood, that even his Majeſty cannot diſpenſe with them, and conſequently cannot delegate ſuch a power to others.

"In regard to the European goods now in our ſtores, and in the hands of our factors at St. Euſtatius, we entreat your Excellencies to determine their fate as ſoon as poſſible; and ſhould there be a general confiſcation, and the proceeds to remain in agents hands, or the goods detained from us, till his Majeſty's pleaſure is known; we beg leave to repreſent, that we conſider ourſelves as no ways obliged to reſt ſatisfied with ſuch ſales or detention; but, on the contrary, will ſeek all lawful redreſs, in this country and in England, againſt your Excellencies, and all employed to take them out of our poſſeſſion, or who prevent our removing or diſpoſing of them in ſuch a manner, that they may ſell for their full value.

"As it is not only neceſſary for the ſecurity of our rights, but alſo in conformity to your Excellencies deſire, that we ſhould produce inventories of all our effects at St. Euſtatius, we doubt not but your Excellencies will readily furniſh us with the means of procuring them; we have, therefore, to requeſt, that, in order to enable us and our partners and factors at St. Euſtatius to aſcertain the amount of the goods already ſhipped off by authority of your Excellencies, and of what may be hereafter taken from us, you would be pleaſed to permit ſuch an intercourſe, perſonal and by correſpondence between us and them, as may facilitate a meaſure ſo neceſſary to give the laws of our country their proper force.

"And, as the inhabitants of the captured iſlands, in whoſe behalf we alſo claim, have a conſiderable property on board of Dutch veſſels, now in St. Euſtatius road, which, we are informed, are under your Excellencies orders for England, we think it highly proper, that we ſhould here requeſt your Excellencies to direct all papers, particularly the certificates relating to ſuch property, to be tranſmitted to England by each veſſel, and that the principal officers of each ſhip be ſent home to prove the ſhipment and property of ſuch goods, in compliance with his Majeſty's inſtructions.

"We ſhall further uſe the freedom to repreſent to your Excellencies, one ſerious bad conſequence that may ariſe to Britiſh ſubjects from the meaſures threatened by your Excellencies to be put in execution. It is impoſſible for many of us to be more effectually ruined by future events than by the preſent; but our more wealthy conſtituents, and the nation at large, may ſuffer from the example ſet by your Excellencies to other powers: if by the fate of war theſe iſlands ſhould fall into the hands of an enraged enemy, there will be a pretext for them to retaliate, and confiſcate private property; ſuch ſteps will totally deprive us of the means of paying our generous creditors in England, and be the cauſe of numerous bankruptcies there. Thus there will be ruin inflicted on the very people in the mother country, who are, with unparalelled liberality, ſubſcribing to ſupport the war, and the principal pillars of the ſtate will fall to the ground.

"The conquerors of all civilized nations have ever had an eye to this; and both motives of humanity and policy preſerved the property of individuals. One inſtance lately happened to the contrary;—Grenada having been taken by ſtorm, without capitulation, was at the mercy of the conquerors:—though the Count D'Eſtaing did not ſeize the property of individuals, yet he iſſued edicts to prevent payment of debts due in Great Britain, and diſplaced agents of abſentees, by appointing truſtees to receive the produce of the eſtates. Thoſe meaſures occaſioned an univerſal clamour among the enlightened part of the French nation, who carried remonſtrances to the throne of an abſolute monarch, and Count D'Eſtaing's conduct was ſeverely reprobated, his edicts reſcinded, and the inhabitants put upon the ſame footing with the French ſubjects in that iſland.

"It is ſo far from our inclination to give any trouble to your Excellencies, that it is with reluctance we have treſpaſſed upon your attention; but as we are aſking for a right, and not ſoliciting a favour,—and as that right is of the greateſt importance to us, we not only hope that we ſhall ſtand excuſed to your Excellencies, but that you will, upon further reflection, comply with our requeſt."

The above memorial, &c. was preſented to Admiral Rodney and General Vaughan, by John Glanville, Eſq. his Majeſty's Solicitor General.

The principles on which the Britiſh commanders in chief acted in the buſineſs of St. Euſtatius, were too decided to be moved by memorials or remonſtrances from partial ſufferers. The anſwer of the Admiral to that which we have juſt recited, marks the ſpirit of his conduct, and his determination to continue it. "After mentioning the impoſſibility of conſidering it with proper attention, from the more important avocations that preſſed upon him, he proceeds to expreſs his ſurprize, that gentlemen who call themſelves merchants and ſubjects of Great Britain, ſhould, when it was in their power to lodge their effects in the Britiſh iſlands to windward, where they would have been under the protection of the Britiſh laws and the Britiſh flag, ſend them to leeward, to the iſland of St. Euſtatius, where, in the eye of common reaſon and common ſenſe, they could only be lodged as a depoſit to ſupply the neceſſity of their King's and their country's enemies." He then concludes with the following ſtrong, unargumentative, peremptory declaration.—"The iſland of St. Euſtatius was Dutch,—every thing in it was Dutch,—every thing was under the protection of the Dutch flag, and that as Dutch it ſhall be treated, is the firm reſolution of a Britiſh Admiral, who has no view whatever, but to do the duty he owes to his King and country."

But this was not all,—while the merchants of St. Chriſtopher's, &c. were endeavouring to direct the attention of the captors of St. Euſtatius, to their intereſts, the Weſt India planters and

and merchants in London, were ſetting forth their grievances to the power, to whom thoſe officers were accountable. The following petition was preſented on the 16th of April to the throne.

To the KING's MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

The PETITION *of the* WEST INDIA PLANTERS *and* MERCHANTS.

"That your petitioners have very conſiderable property and debts due to them, in the ſeveral iſlands in the Weſt Indies, ſubject to the crown of Great Britain, as alſo in the iſlands of Grenada, the Grenadines, Dominica and St. Vincent, which have, in the courſe of the preſent hoſtilities, fallen under the dominion of France.

"That they have always conceived it to be a maxim among civilized nations, eſtabliſhed in humanity and ſound policy, 'that war ſhould be carried on with the leaſt poſſible injury to 'private property, found in any countries or towns, which may be invaded or conquered:' the happy effects of which wiſe principles your petitioners have hitherto experienced in the ſecurity of their eſtates and effects from rapine and plunder, which have been reciprocally diſcountenanced by the Governors in the Weſt Indies, as ruinous to individuals, and productive of no deciſive advantage to any of the ſovereign States concerned.

"Your petitioners are, therefore, ſeriouſly alarmed at the general ſeizure made by the commanders of your Majeſty's ſea and land forces, of goods, merchandize and ſpecie, found in the iſlands of St. Euſtatius and St. Martin, on their ſurrendering, without reſiſtance, and at diſcretion, to the ſaid commanders; humbly conceiving, that the inhabitants of places which ſubmit to the will, and ſurrender themſelves to the diſcretion of an invading enemy, immediately upon ſuch ſubmiſſion, become the ſubjects of that ſovereign or ſtate, to whom the victorious army belongs; and conſequently, by their allegiance, are entitled to ſecurity in their perſons and property; it being as repugnant to policy as humanity, to permit one claſs of ſubjects to plunder another; the trader having an equal claim with the ſoldier to the protection of government.

"Your petitioners humbly beg leave to repreſent to your Majeſty, that thoſe Dutch iſlands did belong to a ſovereign State, by whoſe authority and permiſſion they were made free ports; and that they have been recognized as ſuch by Great Britain, and all the other maritime powers of Europe, who have poſſeſſions in the Weſt Indies.

"That Great Britain, in particular, has never interdicted or prohibited, to her ſubjects, the trade of thoſe Dutch iſlands, but has, on the contrary, permitted the exportation of great quantities of various articles of goods, of the growth, produce and manufacture of this country, which have been regularly and openly entered out, at the ſeveral ports in this kingdom, for the ſaid Dutch iſlands.

"That an act was paſſed laſt ſeſſion of Parliament, for removing any legal doubts ariſing out of the Navigation Act, reſpecting the importation of tobacco of the growth of the colonies in North America, which having eſcaped Britiſh capture, had been imported from the colonies in rebellion, into thoſe Dutch iſlands, declaring and enacting, 'that ſuch tobacco might be 'legally imported from thoſe, or any other neutral iſlands, into any Britiſh iſland, and from 'thence into Great Britain:' by which act, the trade to the ſaid iſland of St. Euſtatius and St. Martin, which had always been, in many reſpects, legal, became an object of public encouragement, by being extended beyond what the ſtrict conſtruction of law ſeemed formerly to authorize.

"That

“ That ſince the paſſing the ſaid act, and even before, during the preſent rebellion, a great part of the tobacco, abſolutely neceſſary for the conſumption and revenue of Great Britain, has been imported through that channel, to the manifeſt benefit of the navigation of this kingdom; for if the market had not been ſupplied by thoſe means, there would have been an indiſpenſable neceſſity for admitting tobacco from Holland, after having been carried thither from thoſe iſlands in Dutch veſſels; and Great Britain would, conſequently, have been deprived of the profit ariſing from the long navigation of that bulky commodity.

“ That ſince the commencement of the American rebellion, the ſaid iſlands of St. Euſtatius and St. Martin have been frequently of the moſt eſſential ſervice to the Britiſh Leeward Iſlands, particularly in the years 1777 and 1778, when the iſlands of Antigua and St. Chriſtopher would have ſuffered all the miſeries of actual famine, had not they drawn from St. Euſtatius thoſe ſupplies which they formerly received from North America.

“ That ſince the capture of Grenada, the Grenadines, Dominica and St. Vincent, thoſe iſlands have been principally ſupplied with the ſeveral neceſſaries for their conſumption, and for the cultivation of their plantations, through the medium of St. Euſtatius, and that many Britiſh ſubjects, having property in thoſe captured iſlands, have been obliged to eſtabliſh houſes of trade in the ſaid iſland of St. Euſtatius, for the expreſs purpoſe of ſupplying thoſe iſlands, and have ordered various articles to be ſhipped for St. Euſtatius from Great Britain, as well as from Holland.

“ That the great want of plantation ſtores and other neceſſaries, in thoſe captured iſlands, has alſo obliged many of the planters to ſhip, from time to time, a great part of the produce of their plantations to St. Euſtatius, for the purpoſe of purchaſing ſuch plantation ſtores and neceſſaries.

“ That many of your Majeſty’s faithful and loyal ſubjects, on the faith of Great Britain, having recognized the trade, have ſettled as general traders in thoſe Dutch iſlands, and have conſiderable property in goods, merchandize and money, in the ſaid iſlands; and that others of your Majeſty’s moſt faithful and loyal ſubjects, as agents for the Dutch as well as Britiſh merchants in theſe iſlands, have ſhipped conſiderable quantities of goods and merchandize on account of the ſaid merchants.

“ That thoſe Dutch iſlands, particularly St. Euſtatius, have, therefore, been, and ought to be, conſidered as free ports, open to all the world, where the ſubjects of all States in amity with Holland were equally welcome, where the goods imported by the hand of commerce were at open market, ready to be ſold to the beſt bidder, without favour and affection, without any partial or political attachment or predilection to any of the powers at war, without regard to any other object than that of mercantile profit, which is the ſpring and ſoul of all commerce whatever; and that the value of the ſaid iſlands to that ſovereign power to which they belonged, as well as to your Majeſty’s ſubjects and other nations, conſiſted in their being univerſal open marts, and not in the inconſiderable production of their ſoil.

“ Your petitioners humbly beg leave to repreſent to your Majeſty, that, as a very conſiderable part of the property found in thoſe Dutch iſlands, muſt neceſſarily belong to many of your Majeſty’s moſt faithful and loyal ſubjects, from the cauſes above ſtated, ſo there are likewiſe others of your Majeſty’s ſubjects reſiding in Great Britain, and the Britiſh Leeward Iſlands, who are large creditors of the Dutch and Britiſh merchants in thoſe Dutch iſlands, not only on account of goods and merchandize, openly and avowedly ſhipped by them, as the agents of the ſaid merchants, but alſo in reſpect of dealings and engagements antecedent to, and unconnected with the trade carried on by ſuch their debtors in thoſe iſlands.

"With reſpect to the property found in the ſaid iſlands, belonging to the ſubjects of the States of Holland, or any other of your Majeſty's enemies, your petitioners having already ſtated what they humbly conceive to be the humane and political practice of war, feel themſelves impelled by a principle of gratitude, to preſent to your royal view the conduct of the commanders of the French King's forces, and of the court of France, in the caſe of the conqueſt of the iſlands of Grenada and the Grenadines.

"When the iſland of Grenada, after having made a zealous, but unſucceſsful defence, againſt the enemy's force, ſurrendered at diſcretion, there was no plunder allowed, except on the Hoſpital Hill, which was taken by ſtorm, and where the ſmall effects that were lodged, neceſſarily fell, *in furore belli*, to the firſt of the aſſailants who could lay their hands upon them. The goods and merchandize in the town of St. George, in that iſland, to a very large amount, not merely intended for the uſe and conſumption of the iſland, but for the general market of the Weſt Indies, remained untouched, and every ſpecies of property whatever was left inviolate, even the goods upon the quays and beach, in various parts of the iſland.

"There were, indeed, certain ordinances iſſued by the French governor, on taking poſſeſſion of the ſaid iſland, by which the produce of all plantations belonging to abſentees was to be ſequeſtered until a peace; and the payment of all debts due to your Majeſty's ſubjects, reſiding in any part of your Majeſty's dominions, was prohibited, under pain of military execution. But on the application of the parties intereſted to the court of France, thoſe ordinances were immediately revoked by his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty; and all perſons whatever, whether preſent or abſent, were ſecured in the full poſſeſſion of their eſtates and effects: his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty having been pleaſed, at the ſame time, to expreſs his diſapprobation of thoſe ordinances, 'as tending to injure civil contracts, which are founded on the law of nature, and which form the moſt ſacred bond of ſociety, being the principal ſource of that reciprocal communication and intercourſe ſubſiſting between the ſubjects of all nations; to which contracts, and to private property in general, the practice of war, among civilized ſtates, has ever had the moſt tender regard.'

"Your petitioners likewiſe, with pleaſure reflect, that your Majeſty, in the very beginning of your reign, gave a ſtriking example of clemency upon the capture of Dominica; the inhabitants of which iſland were ſettled there againſt expreſs treaties, unacknowledged by any ſovereign; profeſſing neutrality, yet exerciſing hoſtilities againſt your Majeſty's ſubjects; and when ſummoned to ſubmit to your Majeſty's arms, not only refuſed to ſurrender, but, provoking an aſſault, were reduced ſword in hand: yet, by your Majeſty's wiſdom and generoſity, the inhabitants of that iſland were preſerved in the poſſeſſion of all their property.

"Your petitioners do not conceive that thoſe defenceleſs iſlands were ſurprized and taken poſſeſſion of by your Majeſty's arms for the ſake of inglorious ſpoil, but merely with a view to great political objects, in conducting the preſent hoſtilities againſt the combined enemies of Great Britain, by depriving them, in future, of the convenience and advantage of thoſe marts. They have ever conſidered Great Britain as priding herſelf in acts of generoſity and humanity, not leſs than in brilliant achievements of valour in war; and they are confident that your Majeſty will not permit the Britiſh name to be ſtained by a departure from that line of conduct, which has hitherto ſo peculiarly characteriſed this nation, and her ſacred regard to the rights of mankind.

"They beg leave to repeat to your Majeſty, that the confiſcation of private property in thoſe Dutch iſlands, would grievouſly affect many of your Majeſty's moſt faithful and loyal ſubjects, who have traded there under the ſanction of our laws, or who are creditors of merchants in the ſaid iſlands; and, at the ſame time, to ſtate to your Majeſty their apprehenſions, that ſuch a meaſure, ſo far as it would injure the property of the ſubjects of the enemy, muſt neceſſarily tend to encreaſe the calamities of war, by exciting deſperate reſiſtance,—by exaſperating our foes againſt the trading inhabitants of thoſe iſlands which may hereafter be obliged to ſubmit to their arms,—and by eſtabliſhing a predatory ſyſtem, deſtructive and ruinous in its conſequences to individuals, and of no ſolid benefit to the ſeveral ſtates concerned.

"Signed by order, and in the name and on the behalf of the Weſt India planters and merchants,

"WILLIAM CRICHTON,

"Chairman of the general meeting on this ſpecial buſineſs."

But the Weſt India planters and merchants who conſidered themſelves as ſufferers by the general confiſcation of St. Euſtatius, did not content themſelves with memorials and petitions, but had immediate recourſe to the laws of their country; and various law-ſuits were commenced, in order to try whether the conduct of the captors of St. Euſtatius would obtain the ſanction of law. Theſe circumſtances occaſioned a great coolneſs, which at length foreboded a ſettled diſlike between the naval commander in chief and the Britiſh iſlands which were committed to his charge and protection: a circumſtance which could not but be conſidered as extremely unfortunate in ſuch a critical ſeaſon of the war.

The buſineſs of St. Euſtatius was not, however, confined to thoſe who were more immediately concerned in it: the attention of Parliament was claimed on the occaſion; and Mr. Burke moved, in the Houſe of Commons, for an enquiry into the conduct obſerved in the late capture of the iſland of St. Euſtatius, particularly with reſpect to the ſeizure and confiſcation of private property, as well as to many outrages ſtated to have been committed there. But the abſence of the commanders, who were ſo deeply concerned in the ſubject of enquiry, was thought a ſufficient ground for poſtponing it till the enſuing ſeſſion; and to that period we muſt refer our readers for any further information on this important ſubject.

In the month of October, 1780, ſeveral of the Weſt India iſlands were afflicted with one of the moſt dreadful hurricanes that had ever been experienced in that part of the globe. The damage done by it to ſome of the Britiſh and French iſlands, as as well as to the ſhipping, was immenſe, and far exceeded any loſſes, from ſuch a cauſe, that had ever been ſuſtained by thoſe colonies.

The Britiſh iſland which ſuffered moſt was that of Barbadoes: it underwent an almoſt total deſtruction. The iſlands of Jamaica, Grenada, St. Vincent, and St. Lucia, particularly the former, were alſo great ſharers in this alarming viſitation. The French iſlands of Martinico and Guadaloupe did not eſcape an equal portion of the general calamity: the principal towns in both were almoſt levelled with the earth; many thouſand lives were loſt from the irruption of the ſea, the fall of buildings, &c.; and, among the vaſt quantity of ſhipping caſt away, were two Britiſh ſhips of the line, and ſeveral frigates: ſeveral French ſhips of war alſo met with the ſame fate.

Theſe hurricanes involved the inhabitants of ſome of the Britiſh iſlands in ſuch extreme diſtreſs, that it was thought neceſſary to make application to Parliament for aſſiſtance and relief. Accordingly, on the 23d of January in this year, (which was the firſt day on which the Houſe of Commons aſſembled after the Chriſtmas receſs) a petition was preſented, by Lord North, from

A. D. 1781 from the planters, merchants, and other perſons intereſted in the iſland of Jamaica, in which it was ſtated, that the pariſhes of Weſtmoreland and Hanover, in that iſland, had been laid waſte by the late hurricanes, earthquakes, and inundations; whereby moſt of the buildings in thoſe pariſhes, together with the produce of the earth, were in a great meaſure deſtroyed; and that other diſtricts in the iſland had received very conſiderable damage. It was added, that the loſſes of the ſeveral ſufferers amounted to ſuch an enormous ſum, as to require the immediate aid and aſſiſtance of Parliament.

A petition was alſo preſented by Mr. Eſtwick, agent for Barbadoes, from the planters, merchants, and others reſident in England, and intereſted in the iſland of Barbadoes; in which it was ſtated, that the violence of the late hurricanes had extended over the whole iſland, affecting almoſt every individual, and reducing to diſtreſs the greateſt part of the inhabitants. Of nearly 400 plantations, ſcarcely one had eſcaped the general calamity; moſt had ſuſtained very conſiderable, and many almoſt irreparable damages: almoſt all the buildings, nearly one-half of the cattle, and many ſlaves had been deſtroyed; ſeveral towns had ſuffered, and the principal in an extreme degree. From theſe cauſes, the inhabitants, to the number of above 20,000 whites, had been almoſt deſtitute of habitations, food, and raiment. The petitioners therefore ſolicited the Houſe, that it would afford the ſufferers ſuch ſpeedy and effectual relief, as would not only ſecure them from impending want, but alſo aſſiſt them to erect anew their buildings, and to procure other neceſſaries, and thereby enable them again to cultivate their eſtates. A petition was alſo preſented from the lord mayor, aldermen, and common council of London, recommending the diſtreſſed inhabitants of Jamaica and Barbadoes to the attention and generoſity of Parliament.

The miniſter informed the Houſe, that his Majeſty having been acquainted with the contents of theſe petitions, had recommended them to the conſideration of Parliament. The day following, therefore, the buſineſs was more particularly diſcuſſed; when Lord North obſerved, that if an eſtimate were to be made of the commercial value to this country of the two pariſhes on which the hurricane fell in Jamaica, and if it were compared with the commercial value to this country of Barbadoes, perhaps thoſe two pariſhes were more than equivalent, in that ſcale, to the whole of that iſland. If therefore a calculation were to be made of the quantum of relief to be ſent to each iſland upon this principle, the greateſt ſum would be ſent to Jamaica: but Parliament would be too juſt to make this the rule of their charity, which ſhould be regulated, not by the meaſure of their loſs, but by the urgency of their wants. The hurricane had fallen on only a part of Jamaica, but had ravaged and laid waſte the whole of Barbadoes. In the latter iſland all were ſufferers; in Jamaica, the greater part of the iſland, though indeed the leaſt fertile, had eſcaped the general viſitation: whence it might be preſumed, that the neceſſaries of life might be purchaſed by the poor amongſt the ſufferers, which were not very many in the two ſuffering pariſhes, for money: money therefore was the principal thing of which they ſtood in need. But in Barbadoes, where the effects of the hurricane were general, the number of poor white people was great, and they would ſtand in need of many of the neceſſaries of life, conſiſting of bulky commodities, which could not be tranſmitted, like a credit on the bank of England, without any expence, but would occaſion a conſiderable deduction from the ſum voted for their relief,—for freight, inſurance, and ſimilar incidents:—In the article of aſſiſtance, therefore, the painful preference was due to Barbadoes. In conſequence of this ſtatement, the Houſe agreed to three reſolutions:—Firſt, to grant 80,000l. for the relief

1781 of Barbadoes; ſecondly, to grant 40,000l. for the relief of Jamaica; and, thirdly, that theſe ſums ſhould be paid for the uſe of the ſufferers, without any deduction.

On the 25th of the ſame month, the miniſters communicated to both Houſes of Parliament a meſſage from the King, in which his Majeſty acquainted them, that during the receſs, he had been obliged to direct letters of marque and repriſal to be iſſued againſt the States-General of the United Provinces and their ſubjects. For the cauſes and motives of his conduct, on that occaſion, he referred them to his public manifeſto againſt that republic, which he had ordered to be laid before the Houſe, &c. with ſeveral other papers relative to the rupture with Holland.

Very animated debates took place on this occaſion in both Houſes: the oppoſition reprobated the war with Holland in the moſt pointed manner. But the principal ground of argument was taken between the Dutch and the Americans, which had been diſcovered by the capture of Mr. Laurens. It was ſaid to be no more than the plan of a treaty, or the rough draught of a compact hereafter to be entered into by the intending contracting parties: that it depended entirely on events which were unknown, and might not happen; in which caſe, the treaty was never to be ratified: that it was no more than a ſpeculative eſſay,—a mere contemplative project.

To ſuch reaſoning it was eaſily anſwered—That the treaty was actually ſigned and ſealed; the names of the penſionary of Amſterdam, and Monſieur de Neufville, a merchant of that city, being ſubſcribed to it on the part of the magiſtracy of Amſterdam, and the name of William Lee, as commiſſioner or agent for the Congreſs of America. Beſides, it might be very properly urged, that when two powers ſtood connected together by ſolemn treaty and ancient alliance, as the States of Holland and Great Britain were, it made very little difference in the ſcale of offence and provocation, whether a treaty, like that of the penſionary Van Berkel, was fully ratified and conſummated, or only in progreſſion. Indeed the States-General had refuſed to pay the leaſt attention to the requiſition in his Majeſty's memorial, delivered by Sir Joſeph Yorke, that proper notice ſhould be taken of Van Berkel and his aſſociates; ſo far as ſuch a refuſal could be implied by a contemptuous ſilence. As to the principal magiſtrates of Amſterdam, they were ſo far from diſavowing the fact, or attempting to palliate it, that they gloried in the whole tranſaction; and expreſsly declared, even to the States-General, that what they had done was no more than their indiſpenſable duty required of them. It may be alſo ſuggeſted, that the opinion of this treaty being no more than a project, might, perhaps, have ſome weight in the argument, if an opportunity had not been given to the States-General to retract or diſavow it. Inſtead of that, their conduct amounted nearly, if not entirely, to an avowal or approbation of its contents: they poſtponed it *ad referendum*; and by ſo doing, they diſclaimed it in form, but acknowledged it in ſubſtance: for, though it may be allowed, for argument's ſake, that they were not prepared immediately to puniſh the offender, Van Berkel, they might have ſatisfied the Britiſh court, by reprobating it in an abſtract reſolution or opinion, expreſſing, in general terms, their total diſapprobation, and declaring the impropriety or criminality of any of the ſubjects of the republic entering into a treaty with the rebellious ſubjects of another ſtate, in amity and alliance with them. The motion made in both Houſes, in conſequence of the meſſage, that an addreſs ſhould be preſented to his Majeſty, aſſuring him that the Houſe would, with a firm and determined reſolution, ſupport the juſt and neceſſary war againſt Holland, &c. &c. was carried in both places by a conſiderable majority.

The

A. D. 1781 The affairs of India now began to require, and to attract the moſt ſerious attention of the Houſe of Commons. It was ſtrongly inſiſted upon by many perſons of weight, that the interference of the crown, under the ſanction of Parliament, in 1773, in regulating the government of the Eaſt India Company's poſſeſſions in Aſia, and in the management of its affairs at home, inſtead of the benefits which were held out at that time, had produced ſuch ſcenes of diſorder, and ſuch a ſtate of confuſion in India, as has not often been the reſult of civil, or even of any regulated military eſtabliſhment.

It was generally allowed, that the double intereſts which were then formed, mutually counteracting each other, and the oppoſite powers which the Company's ſervants looked up to, neceſſarily ſlackened all the bands of obedience, and, by degrees, deſtroyed all authority. The revolution at Madras, the fate of Lord Pigot, the triumph, rather than eſcape, of the authors of that cataſtrophe, for which they had only been fined 1000l. each, with the extraordinary phænomenon of Indian princes, at the diſtance of half the globe, becoming the authors of cabals, and the leaders of parties in the capital of Great Britain, formed, altogether, ſuch a combination of circumſtances, as pointed out the neceſſity of a review of our policy itſelf, in the government of India, as well as of the ſtriking effects which it had produced.

Bengal, by the new regulations, had been made the ſeat of government of the Britiſh dominions in the Eaſt. Two juriſdictions were there eſtabliſhed; the one poſſeſſing all the political and executive powers of government, under the name of Governor-General and Council, extended its ſuperintendance and controul over the other preſidencies of Madras and Bombay. The ſecond, compoſed of judges ſent from England, was called the Supreme Court of Judicature, and was entirely independent of the Governor-General and Council. As the one ſucceeded, with great additional powers, to the ancient preſidency, ſo the latter did to the Mayor's Court of Calcutta: a court, which though compoſed of magiſtrates not bred to the knowledge of the law, yet by acting upon the general principles of rectitude, and with the aſſiſtance of juries, was highly diſtinguiſhed, as well for the moderate expence of time and money at which juſtice was obtained, as for the fairneſs of its proceedings, and the equity of its deciſions.

It was ſcarcely, perhaps, in the nature of things, that theſe ſeparate, independent powers, eſpecially at ſuch a diſtance from home, as to be in a great meaſure beyond the reach of controul, ſhould ſubſiſt long together without claſhing. The public had hitherto received only the charges againſt the Supreme Court of Judicature of Calcutta. Their friends could therefore only requeſt, that no haſty opinions ſhould be formed, nor cenſure paſt upon their conduct, until they were heard.

In this ſtate of things, it was not eaſy to ſettle in what proportions the blame is to be laid; upon the conſtitution itſelf, or upon thoſe who acted under it. It ſeems, however, to have been generally acknowledged, that the meaſure of attempting to eſtabliſh Engliſh laws, courts, and forms of juſtice, amongſt the various nations, religions, languages, and races of men ſubſiſting in India, and where ſcarcely any length of time could even render them intelligible, will probably ever be conſidered as a fundamental political error. The antiquity of the Gentoo civilization, laws, religion, and cuſtoms, fortified by the invincible attachment which it produced in the people, had, in all ages, procured the political attention, if not the reſpect, of the moſt barbarous of their various conquerors. However the people were oppreſſed or pillaged, their prejudices, in thoſe reſpects, were held ſacred and inviolate.

The Zemindars, who are at preſent the great landholders of India, are likewiſe a ſort of hereditary princes of the country. They generally rent from their ſubſiſting maſters, thoſe lands which their anceſtors poſſeſſed in ſovereignty. Some of theſe hold lands to the extent of ten or twelve thouſand ſquare miles; and as the rents were generally eaſy, and the people ſtill regard them with the higheſt degree of attachment and reverence, they are enabled to retain ſome appearance of former royalty in their palaces, and ſtill more in their authority. The Engliſh government in this country, is in a great meaſure maintained through this attachment of the people to their princes; and the deſire of enabling the Zemindar to diſcharge his rent, is a principal ſpur to their induſtry. All the judicial buſineſs of the country had hitherto been tranſacted in their provincial courts, and matters of litigation decided according to the known laws and cuſtoms.

The authority of the native courts was not only denied by the new judicature, but their members were puniſhed, even to ruin, as well as perſonal infliction, for the diſcharge of their functions, according to the eſtabliſhed laws and conſtitution of their country, which had, till now, been acknowledged by all conquerors. We are at all times to recollect, that it had been the conſtant policy of the Eaſt India Company, in the government of thoſe countries, to act under the apparent authority, and as the nominal ſervants and officers, of that ſhadow of the ancient ſupreme ſovereignty, the repreſentative of the Grand Mogul, who ſtill reſided at Delhi: ſo that the new ſyſtem of judicature operated not ſimply as a violent and unprepared innovation, but as a total revolution in the mode of government eſtabliſhed by ourſelves.

The aſtoniſhed and terrified natives of Bengal and the adjoining countries, now beheld the extraordinary ſpectacle of Engliſh bailiffs, accompanied by conſiderable bodies of armed Europeans, traverſing the country, at the diſtance of ſome hundreds of miles from Calcutta, to execute by force the decrees of the new judicature, founded upon laws and diſtinctions which they were utterly incapable of comprehending, in the palaces and on the perſons of the Zemindars, whom they viewed at once with the reſpect due to their natural princes, and to the medium of European authority. Force, in defence of all that was held ſacred, was oppoſed to force: a kind of ſieges were formed; reinforcements were ſent to oppoſe the aſſailants; the timidity, not the inclination of the people, prevented their being cut to pieces; places were carried by ſtorm; and the brother of one of the Rajahs, with others of his friends and family, was killed in the defence of his palace.

The apartments of the women, which are held ſacred throughout all the Eaſt, and ſtill more ſo among the Gentoos of rank, were violently broken into, and their perſons, which are ſuppoſed to receive ſome defilement even from the caſual view of a ſtranger, were ſubject to the rude handling and rough treatment of that ſort of ruffians who are generally employed upon ſuch occaſions. But this was not the worſt part of the buſineſs: their places of private and domeſtic worſhip were violated in the ſame manner, and thoſe ſymbols or external objects of their adoration, which had been ſanctified by the reverence of ages, were dragged from their places by profane hands, and thrown amongſt the heap of houſehold furniture which was collected to anſwer the ends of execution.

The Governor-General and Council, who conſidered all matters of finance, and, conſequently, all tranſactions with the Zemindars, as cognizable only by themſelves, and ſtill regulated, in that reſort, by the known laws and cuſtomary courſe of juſtice in the country, could not but reſent this invaſion of their authority. They had, indeed, much ſerious cauſe of apprehenſion, from the effects which this violence on the rights, paſſions, and prejudices of the

A. D. 1781 people might produce in a country, where ſo many millions of natives were governed by an handful of ſtrangers.

They accordingly employed the military force of the company to reſtrain the violence of the civil power; and a gang, conſiſting of fourſcore bailiffs and their aſſociates, were in one inſtance diſarmed and ſent up priſoners to Calcutta. Two petitions were now preſented to Parliament: the one from the Governor General and Council, giving a long ſtatement of the tranſactions, and requeſting an indemnification from thoſe legal penalties which, for the preſervation of government and of the country, they had been under the neceſſity of incurring, in reſiſting the decrees of the ſupreme court, and the operation of an act of Parliament.

The ſecond petition was ſubſcribed by 648 Britiſh ſubjects reſiding in the provinces of Bengal, Bahar and Oriſſa, containing a long detail of the grievances, oppreſſions, and violations of their rights as men and as Britons, which they had endured under the authority of the Supreme Court of Judicature; particularly of their being deprived of the benefit of trials by jury in all civil caſes; of the eſtabliſhment of *ex poſt facto* and retroſpective laws; of ſome matters relative to appeals and the admiſſion of evidence, which appeared to be extremely oppreſſive and unjuſt; with a number of other aſſumptions of power, which, as ſtated, ſeemed to be of a very extraordinary nature. They likewiſe confirm the accounts given by the Governor General and Council, relative to the ſtate of confuſion, anarchy and danger, which, through theſe means, prevailed in the country.

On the 12th of February, General Smith entered into an ample diſcuſſion of the petitions, and of the ſtate of affairs in India, and concluded by moving, that the petitions might be referred to a ſelect committee, conſiſting of fifteen members, to be choſen by ballot, and that it ſhould meet in the chamber above theirs. The miniſter made no objection to the motion:—but, as he had brought in the bill that had paſſed a few years before for the government of India, and which was the ſource of the ſubſiſting grievances, he thought proper to declare, that it could not have been in his contemplation, and certainly was not in his moſt diſtant apprehenſion, that the Court of Judicature eſtabliſhed by that bill, ſhould become the ſource of miſery, oppreſſion and injuſtice, and that it was not propoſed to extend its powers in the manner then repreſented. The ſelect committee, of fifteen gentlemen, was accordingly ballotted in a few days after.

This committee, after ſitting ſome time, delivered in their report, and a bill for new modelling the Supreme Court of Judicature in Bengal, &c. was brought in by General Smith, which, after ſome oppoſition and modification in its paſſage, was at length carried through both Houſes, and received the royal aſſent. By this act it was declared, that the Governor General and Council of Bengal were not ſubject to the juriſdiction of the ſupreme court, on account of any thing done by them in their public capacity; and they were indemnified in the reſiſtance which they had made to the orders of that court. It was alſo enacted, that no perſon ſhould be ſubject to the juriſdiction of the ſupreme court on account of his being a land owner, or farmer of land, in the provinces of Bengal, Bahar and Oriſſa; that no judicial officers in the country courts ſhould be liable to actions in the ſupreme court for their deciſions; and the two Mufties and Behader Beg, who were then in priſon, in conſequence of the deciſion of that court in the Patna cauſe, were ordered to be diſcharged.

Whether it was from the conſequence the Empreſs of Ruſſia had acquired from taking the lead in the armed neutrality; from any regard to Great Britain or Holland, or from the apprehenſion of any unpleaſant conſequences which might poſſibly happen to herſelf from a rupture

A. D. 1781 ture between the two powers, her Imperial Majeſty took upon herſelf the office of mediatrix between them; and we find, that, on the firſt of March in this year, his Excellency Prince Gallitzin, envoy extraordinary from Ruſſia, held a conference with the Preſident of the States General, and preſented the following memorial from the Empreſs of Ruſſia.

" *High and Mighty Lords*,

" No ſooner had her Imperial Majeſty been informed of the Britiſh ambaſſador's ſudden departure from the Hague, than, without waiting for any further explanation, guided only by the friendſhip and good will ſhe bears to the two contending powers, and awakened by the alarming tendency of a meaſure ſo detrimental to their mutual welfare and tranquillity, ſhe directed to her miniſter in London to make the moſt earneſt repreſentation to that court, to prevent, if poſſible, the matter being carried to any extremity, and to recommend the moſt conciliating meaſures; offering, at the ſame time, to promote them as far as was in her power. Although her Majeſty has not as yet heard of any anſwer from the ſaid court, ſhe has ſome reaſon to think that the overtures made by her have been favourably received. In conſequence whereof, her Imperial Majeſty does not heſitate to give a freſh proof of her good intentions for bringing about a reconciliation between the two powers, whom ſhe equally ſupports, and who have lived ſo long in that natural and perfect harmony which beſt ſuits their reſpective intereſts, by offering them, in form, her ſervices and mediation, for the purpoſe of putting an end to that diſcord and war, which has lately broken out between them.

" While Monſieur Simolin, her Imperial Majeſty's miniſter at the court of London, is fulfilling her commands on this head, the under-written has the honour to acquit himſelf of the ſame taſk here, with their High Mightineſſes, and to aſſure them of the zeal and readineſs he wiſhes to have an opportunity to diſplay, in forwarding the deſirable work of reſtoring the ſaid States to their wonted peace and tranquillity. That diſintereſtedneſs, impartiality and benevolence, which have hitherto ſtamped every action of her Imperial Majeſty, are equally conſpicuous in the preſent inſtance.

" The wiſdom and prudence of your High Mightineſſes will eaſily diſtinguiſh thoſe ſacred characteriſtics, and dictate the anſwer which the under-written ſhall tranſmit to his Imperial Miſtreſs, as a proof of his having executed her commands.

" (Signed,) LE PRINCE DE GALLITZIN."

On the 7th of the ſame month, their noble and great Mightineſſes the States of Holland and Weſt Frieſland having examined the above memorial, accepted of the mediation offered by the Empreſs of Ruſſia.

At the ſame time, a ſimilar memorial was preſented to the court of Great Britain by Monſieur Simolin, the Ruſſian miniſter reſident there, wherein her Imperial Majeſty propoſes herſelf in like manner, to become a mediatrix between Great Britain and Holland. To this memorial, Lord Stormont, one of his Majeſty's principal Secretaries of State, returned the following anſwer:

" The alliance which has ſubſiſted ſo many years between Great Britain and the States General, has always been conſidered by his Majeſty as a tie, formed by the moſt natural cauſes, and not only agreeable to the intereſt of both nations, but abſolutely eſſential to their mutual welfare.

" The King has done every thing in his power to preſerve this tie unbroken, and even to ſtrengthen it; and if the conduct of their High Mightineſſes had at all anſwered to that of his Majeſty, they would ſtill have remained in their utmoſt force. But, ſince the commencement of

A. D. 1781 of the preſent troubles, the only return made by the republic to this conſtant friendſhip, has been the total relinquiſhment of the principles of an alliance, the prime object of which was the mutual defence of the two nations; an obſtinate refuſal to fulfil the moſt ſacred obligations; a daily violation of the moſt ſolemn treaties; an aſſiſtance given to the very enemy, againſt whom he had a right to demand ſuccour; an aſylum granted to the American pirates in the Dutch ports, in open violation of the cleareſt ſtipulations; and, to complete the whole, a denial of juſtice and ſatisfaction for the affront given to the dignity of the King, by a ſecret league with his rebellious ſubjects.

“ All theſe accumulated injuries rendered it impoſſible for the King to take any other part than that which he has done.

“ When the motives which rendered this rupture inevitable were explained to the public, the King aſcribed the conduct of the Republic to the true cauſe; that is to ſay, to the unhappy influence of a faction, which ſacrificed the intereſt of the nation to their own private views. But the King, at the ſame time, manifeſted the moſt ſincere deſire to bring back the republic to that ſyſtem of ſtrict union, efficacious alliance and reciprocal protection, which has ſo much contributed to the welfare and glory of the two States.

“ When the Empreſs offered her good offices to effect a reconciliation by a particular peace, the King teſtified his gratitude to her for that freſh proof of a friendſhip which he values ſo highly, and avoided expoſing the mediation of her Majeſty to a fruitleſs negotiation. He explained his reaſons, which perſuaded him that, in the preſent diſpoſition of the Republic, governed by a faction, all reconciliation, during the war with France, would be merely ſuperficial, and would afford an opportunity to the party which ſways the Republic, to act as ſecret auxiliaries of all the King's enemies, under the maſk of a pretended alliance with Great Britain.

“ But if there are any indications of change in this diſpoſition, if the powerful intervention of her Imperial Majeſty ſhould be able to effect any alteration, and induce the republic to return to thoſe principles which the moſt diſcerning part of the nation have never forſaken, his Majeſty will be ready to treat with their High Mightineſſes on the ſubject of a ſeparate peace; and it is his wiſh, that the Empreſs of all the Ruſſias may be the ſole mediatreſs of the peace. She has been the firſt to offer her good offices, and ſo powerful an intervention as hers, cannot gain any thing either in weight or influence by the acceſſion of the moſt reſpectable allies.

“ The friendſhip of the Empreſs to both nations, the intereſt which her empire has in their reciprocal welfare, her known impartiality and elevated views, are ſufficient pledges of the manner in which ſhe will conduct this ſalutary work; and in a negotiation, the whole object of which is to terminate a war, cauſed by a violation of the treaties, and by an affront offered to his crown, his Majeſty relies, with the utmoſt confidence and ſatisfaction, upon the mediation of a ſovereign, who holds ſacred the faith of treaties, who knows ſo well how to eſtimate the dignity of ſovereigns, and who has maintained her own, during her glorious reign, with ſo much greatneſs and reſolution.

“ (Signed,) STORMONT.”

In the mean time, the loſs incurred by the Dutch was felt by them in a very ſevere degree. The profits derived from their late commerce at St. Euſtatius was immenſe: it was a trade of clear and certain gain, as it conſiſted almoſt entirely in conſignments.

Such heavy loſſes as they had ſuſtained, in every particular, on the commencement of a war, in which they had involved themſelves without neceſſity, and againſt their beſt intereſts, excited the loudeſt clamours among thoſe people throughout the Seven United Provinces, who were

1781 not entirely devoted to the French. That party which had recommended violent meaſures againſt Great Britain, began to loſe its popularity in proportion to the diſtreſſes which were now daily accumulating on the trading individuals, of which the Dutch nation is chiefly compoſed. Theſe diſtreſſes occaſioned very great diſcontents and complaints in ſome of the provinces: that of Zealand in particular, which, from its commercial intereſts was more cloſely connected with Great Britain than the others, expreſſed a ſtrong averſion to the hoſtile diſpoſition of Holland. It preſented, therefore, a memorial to the States General, ſignifying its opinion, that a negociation ſhould be ſet on foot in order to put an end to the difference between Great Britain and the Republic, and earneſtly requeſted that ſuch meaſures might be adopted, as would ſpeedily reſtore that harmony which had ſo long ſubſiſted between them.

This memorial was ſtrongly ſupported by the merchants and trading people of the city of Middleburg, the capital of Zealand. They repreſented in the moſt free and explicit terms, that the Engliſh and Dutch could not engage in a war with each other, but to their mutual injury: they alleged the long and cloſe intimacy between the Britiſh nation and the people of Zealand: this province was full of Engliſh traders, the number of whom ſettled in Middleburg alone amounted to near 2000: a war with England, therefore, muſt prove highly deſtructive to them, and would deeply affect the intereſts of the whole Republic.

Theſe remonſtrances, however well founded, made no impreſſion on the States. The French faction was now become ſo powerful, that all reaſon and argument were over-ruled, and the reſolution taken to proſecute hoſtilities againſt Great Britain with the utmoſt vigour.

She applied to the courts of Peterſburg, Stockholm and Copenhagen, claiming their aſſiſtance in conſequence of the compact of neutrality entered into with thoſe powers; and alleging, that the declaration of war on the part of Great Britain, was ſolely cauſed by their acceſſion to the treaty of neutrality. The following is the memorial delivered on this occaſion by the States General to the court of Stockholm.

" The under-written envoy extraordinary from their High Mightineſſes the States General of the United Provinces, to his Majeſty the King of Sweden, in purſuance of an expreſs order from his maſters, has the honour to propoſe to his Swediſh Majeſty,

" That their High Mightineſſes having acceded, by their reſolution of the 20th of November, 1780, to the treaty of armed neutrality, in conformity to the invitation of the northern powers; and placing the moſt perfect confidence in the power, magnanimity and fidelity of their imperial and royal Majeſties, for the fulfilling of their engagements, and the maintaining of their dignity, by accompliſhing a work ſo gloriouſly undertaken, namely, the liberty of the ſeas, the freedom of navigation for all neutral nations, were not deterred by the conſideration of the conſequences, which that acceſſion and declaration might be productive of to the Republic, from the part of the belligerent powers. But their High Mightineſſes have declared in favour of this acceſſion and declaration, in relying implicitly on the ſentiments of their imperial and royal Majeſties, whom they alſo acquainted in due time, of the meaſures taken in conſequence thereof.

" That the event has alſo juſtified their requiſition, in regard to the Britiſh court; ſince the miniſter of the latter, after his fruitleſs endeavours to thwart the acceſſion to the alliance, took the reſolution, on the firſt notice he had of it, to ſpeak in a ſtrain truly unprecedented, and ill ſuited to the mutual regard which the reſpective ſovereigns owe to each other; without ſo much as granting to the Republic a ſufficient time to conſider on the matter, according to the political ſyſtem of the Republic, which his Britannic Majeſty is fully acquainted with; the

Engliſh

A. D. 1781 Engliſh miniſter inſiſted, nevertheleſs, upon an immediate and ſpeedy ſatisfaction, and the puniſhment of a pretended offence, occaſioned by the diſcovery of a negotiation with North America, without receiving, as an ample ſatisfaction, the proviſional anſwer, nor the formal diſavowal of their High Mightineſſes of a negociation, of which (as acknowledged even by his Britannic Majeſty) they had not the leaſt ſhare, or knowledge: of a negociation, relating to a pretended treaty, which, in itſelf, ſufficiently denotes, from its terms, only the ſketch of an eventual treaty entered into by private perſons, without being formally authoriſed thereto by the body of the magiſtrates of Amſterdam, or by the ſtates of the province of Holland, and much leſs by the States General, whoſe members are alone authoriſed to enter into engagements in the name of the Republic.

"The Britiſh miniſter went even ſo far as to refuſe noticing the reſolution, by which the province of Holland (the only one concerned) was required to deliberate, how far the laws of the country might give authority to proſecute the perſons accuſed, and puniſh them; a formality, without which no puniſhment can be inflicted, neither in England nor in this Republic, or any other country. Nay, the ſaid miniſter went ſo far as to threaten, that in caſe of a refuſal, his ſovereign would adopt ſuch means, as to procure himſelf that ſatisfaction. It was, at the ſame time, reſolved to attack the Republic by ſurprize, and ſo far haſten the meaſures taken to begin hoſtilities, that Lord Stormont, making uſe of vain pretences, would not ſo much as accept from Count Welderen, the aforeſaid declaration; and anſwered, under his hand, 'That he (Stormont) could no longer look upon him as the miniſter of a friendly 'power, after having officially acquainted him of his King's manifeſto:' whilſt this very manifeſto (and this ſhould be noted) was delivered into the hands of Count Welderen, only an hour before the time appointed by Lord Stormont, the preceding day, for giving him audience. That, moreover, although no mention is made in the manifeſto alluded to, of the Republic acceding to the treaty of the armed neutrality, (which it was of the utmoſt importance to paſs over in ſilence) it nevertheleſs appears clearly, to the penetrating eye of your Majeſty, as well as to all Europe, if the whole proceedings are attended to, and the time and manner in which the manifeſto was publiſhed, that the hatred, occaſioned by the Republic acceding to the confederation of armed neutrality, is the true motive of his Britiſh Majeſty's reſentment, and the only one that could excite him to an open attack againſt the Republic, by ſeizing, at once, upon a great number of Dutch merchantmen, and ſome ſhips of war. Beſides, that the aforeſaid manifeſto, known to your Majeſty, ſufficiently diſplays the cauſe of England's diſpleaſure; the more ſo, as amongſt the pretences made uſe of to varniſh over the hoſtilities againſt the Republic, it is ſaid, that it had taken a neutral part: without the cabinet of St. James's deigning to obſerve, that ſuch anſwer was inſulting to the neutral powers, who are perfectly acquainted with the treaties now in force between England and the Republic; and that the latter could not be charged with an intention of entering into an alliance with a power not lawfully neuter in the preſent conteſt, and without obſerving, that this liberty of negociating had been put beyond all doubt, by England itſelf; ſince, by ſuſpending in April, 1780, the effects of the treaty paſſed in 1674, the Engliſh have manifeſted their intent of looking henceforth upon the Republic as a neutral power, no ways privileged by any treaty.

"That for the reaſons hereabove mentioned, the animoſity of Great Britain appears ſtill more conſpicuous, from the ill-grounded reproach contained in the ſaid manifeſto againſt this Republic, that their High Mightineſſes had encouraged the exportation of naval ſtores for France, by ſuſpending the uſual duties on thoſe commodities, whilſt it is known to all the

1781 world, that ſuch a ſuſpenſion has never taken place, and that the Republic had a right to export thoſe commodities, not only agreeably to the treaty in 1674, but alſo in conformity to the principles laid down by the neutral powers in the convention of armed neutrality. That conſequently it would be needleſs to enter any farther into the merits of the ſaid manifeſto; as his Swediſh Majeſty has it in his power to appreciate himſelf its value, and muſt, moreover, be fully perſuaded that the line of conduct purſued by their High Mightineſſes ſince the beginning of the troubles with America, is an evident proof, that they have never favoured or countenanced the revolted colonies; witneſs the many partial condeſcenſions in favour of England, which were merely gratuitous on the part of their High Mightineſſes, by circumſcribing the trade within their own colonies; by refuſing to grant the protection of their convoys to veſſels laden with ſhip timber; and by recalling the governor of St. Euſtatia on ſome ill-grounded complaints of the Britiſh miniſtry: condeſcenſions which have been rewarded by the attack and ſeizure of the convoy of Count Byland; by a violation of the territories of this Republic, and by the taking by force ſome American veſſels from under the very batteries of the iſland of St. Martin.

"That their High Mightineſſes having thus faithfully adhered to the ſyſtem of moderation, it is evident that the reſentment of his Britannic Majeſty ariſes merely from their acceſſion to the treaty of armed neutrality; and that conſequently, their High Mightineſſes are fully authoriſed to claim the performance of the conditions ſtipulated in the articles VII. VIII. and IX. of the treaty of armed neutrality, which form the baſis of that union and alliance contracted between their imperial and royal Majeſties and the Republic. That therefore no obſtacle can hinder or delay the fulfilling of the engagements contracted by virtue of the ſaid confederation, of which the Republic ought to be conſidered as a member from the very moment in which their High Mightineſſes acceded to the ſame reſolution at the Hague; and diſpatched their declaration, in conformity to the ſaid acceſſion and convention, to the belligerent powers.

"That if their High Mightineſſes had to complain only of a ſingle act of offence, or an attack committed againſt them, which was likely to be redreſſed by the friendly interpoſition of their allies, they would have claimed their intervention rather than have recourſe to arms; but as their High Mightineſſes find themſelves actually and ſuddenly attacked in an hoſtile manner by his Britannic Majeſty, in conſequence of, and from mere reſentment of the abovementioned alliance, they find themſelves under the neceſſity of repelling force by force, and to return hoſtilities for hoſtilities; being fully perſuaded that the allied powers will not heſitate to make this their common cauſe, and to procure to the Republic due ſatisfaction and indemnity for the loſſes occaſioned by an attack equally unjuſt and violent; and that the ſaid powers will moreover, in conjunction with the States General, take ſuch farther meaſures, as the exigencies of the preſent circumſtances may require. This their High Mightineſſes ſolicit with great earneſtneſs, and rely upon it with ſo much more confidence, as they are firmly perſuaded, that the generous and equitable ſentiments, which actuate their imperial and royal Majeſties, will not ſuffer them to let the Republic fall a victim to a ſyſtem of politics, not leſs glorious than founded in equity, and eſtabliſhed for the ſecurity of the rights of neutral nations; and eſpecially as the Republic, if left ſingly expoſed to the iniquitous and violent attacks of England, would hardly be able to cope with that overbearing power, and thus run the hazard of becoming totally uſeleſs to the ſaid confederation.

"For theſe reaſons, the under-written envoy extraordinary, inſiſting on the motives urged here above, and fully perſuaded that the ratifications of the treaty ſigned at Peterſburg, will take place as ſoon as poſſible, has the honour, in the name and by expreſs order of his maſters, to claim the performance of the engagements ſtipulated in the articles VII. VIII. and IX. of the ſaid treaty, and to require, in virtue thereof, a ſpeedy and adequate aſſiſtance from his Swediſh Majeſty, whoſe noble and equitable ſentiments, acknowledged by all Europe, will not permit him to abandon the complete eſtabliſhment of a ſyſtem worthy the higheſt praiſe.

" The friendſhip and affection of your Majeſty towards their High Mightineſſes, leave them no doubt of your Majeſty's willingly granting the aſſiſtance which they now claim, and alſo promiſe to the under-written envoy a ſpeedy and ſatisfactory anſwer, which he ſolicits the more anxiouſly, as every moment's delay may be attended with heavy and irreparable loſſes to the Republic.

" (Signed,) D. W. VAN LYNDEN.

But theſe ſolicitations of the States General to the northern courts, though very urgent and preſſing, did not produce the effect that was intended. They demanded an immediate reinforcement of ſhips of war; but the jealouſy entertained of the Britiſh power, was not greater than the dread of expoſing themſelves to its reſentment, in the different members of the armed neutrality. They contented themſelves with remaining on the defenſive; and were not in the leaſt inclined to give any further provocation to Great Britain. They might alſo be of opinion, that the combination already formed againſt it, was fully ſufficient for the purpoſes they had in view; and that by adding to it, the balance of naval power, for which it had been framed, might, contrary to their intentions, incline too much on the other ſide.

The ſituation of the Seven United Provinces at this juncture, was very different from what it had been upon former emergencies of this nature. The Dutch are known to be a brave people; but, from a long diſuſe of arms, they were now in a ſtate but ill prepared for war. Relying too much on the difficulties wherein Great Britain was involved, they imagined that an open and avowed declaration of hoſtilities again them, was a meaſure they had not the leaſt reaſon to apprehend.

The naval force of the Seven United Provinces, bore, at this time, no proportion to its ſplendor in former times, when it was able to meet the united ſtrength of England and France on the ocean, and was equally the terror and the admiration of their enemies. Fourſcore years were now elapſed, ſince they had been under the neceſſity of proſecuting any naval war. During this long interval, their ſhipping had been totally engroſſed by the occupations of peace and commerce, and Britain was the laſt power againſt which it had been expected, they ſhould firſt renew their exertions of war.

On a review of their marine, it was found very inadequate to the ideas entertained by the reſt of Europe. The Dutch were fully ſenſible of the great danger to which their trade was evidently expoſed, from the vaſt ſtrength, enterprizing diſpoſition, and near vicinity of the enemy with whom they had to contend; nevertheleſs, ſo remote had their thoughts been from a war with England, that the preſervation of their commerce, which is the ſole foundation of their power and proſperity, had now no other domeſtic protection than eleven ſhips of the line, from 60 to 70 guns, and fifty ſhips and veſſels of war of inferior force. This was but a ſhadow of their ancient power at ſea; but depending on the ſupport of the enemies of Great Britain, they entertained no common hope of reſiſting with effect ſuch detached parts of her maritime forces, as ſhe could ſpare from the neceſſary defence of her numerous poſſeſſions in ſo many parts of the globe.

A. D. 1781 In order, however, to remove, as much poſſible, the imputation of folly and inconſiderateneſs to which they were, at this time, very generally ſubject, the States General publiſhed the following laboured manifeſto, in which they endeavoured to juſtify their conduct towards Great Britain. But the combined force of all the arguments and reaſonings which it contained, were by no means ſufficient to make any proſelytes to their politics: for the Dutch to accede to the confederacy formed againſt Great Britain, in conjunction with the Houſe of Bourbon, was to give additional ſtrength to the compact framed between the members of that too powerful family, whoſe enmity they had much more reaſon to dread than that of the Britiſh nation, and of whoſe ambition they had more than once experienced the moſt alarming conſequences.

" If ever the annals of the world have furniſhed an inſtance of a free and independent ſtate being attacked by an enemy, in the moſt unjuſtifiable manner, and without the leaſt appearance of right or equity, by a neighbouring power allied for a long time, and bound by ties founded on the baſis of common intereſt, it is without doubt, the Republic of the United States of the Netherlands, which finds itſelf in that caſe with his Majeſty the King of Great Britain, and his miniſters. From the beginning of the diſputes, which had ariſen between that kingdom and its American colonies, their High Mightineſſes, no wiſe obliged to interfere, had taken the firm and determined reſolution to adopt and ſtrictly to adhere to the moſt exact neutrality: and when the ſaid diſputes had kindled the flames of a war which hath embroiled more powers than one, and ſpread in ſeveral parts of the world, their High Mightineſſes have conſtantly obſerved and maintained the ſame line of conduct; whilſt, in the mean time, they have taken care to give on many occaſions, and in ſome inſtances of a very eſſential nature, the moſt convincing proofs of their ſincere inclination to conform to the wiſhes of his Majeſty: ſo far as they could do it without going againſt the rules of impartiality, or bringing in queſtion their rights of ſovereignty.

" It was with this view, and for this purpoſe, that their High Mightineſſes from the beginning, and at the requiſition of his Britannic Majeſty, cauſed moſt expreſs inhibitions to be publiſhed againſt the exportation of all warlike ſtores to the colonies of his Britannic Majeſty in America; and againſt all fraudulent trade with the ſaid colonies: and in order that the ſaid prohibitions ſhould be more effectually carried into execution, their High Mightineſſes made no difficulty to take ſuch farther ſteps as greatly circumſcribed their own navigation, and the trade of their ſubjects with the Dutch colonies in the Weſt Indies.

" It was to further the above purpoſes, that their High Mightineſſes ſent the moſt exact orders to all commanders, and governors of their colonies and ſettlements, as well as to the commanders of their ſhips of war, carefully to abſtain from doing, in regard to the American flag, any thing from which could be juſtly inferred or deduced an acknowledgment of the independency of the ſaid colonies: and it is alſo, eſpecially to the above intent, that their High Mightineſſes having received a memorial preſented to them by the Engliſh ambaſſador, full of the heavieſt complaints againſt the governor of St. Euſtatia, condeſcended to deliberate on the ſaid memorial; though couched in terms little conſonant with the regard which ſovereign powers owe to each other: the conſequence of the ſaid deliberation was the immediate recall of the ſaid governor, whom their High Mightineſſes called to an account for his conduct, and who was not permitted to return to his reſidence till he had cleared himſelf of all the charges brought againſt him, before a court of juſtice; a copy of whoſe proceedings was ſoon after tranſmitted to the miniſter of his Britannic Majeſty.

A. D. 1781 "By ſuch meaſures as theſe, their High Mightineſſes, who always earneſtly wiſhed to avoid giving the ſmalleſt cauſe of diſcontent to his Britannic Majeſty, have conſtantly endeavoured to promote and cultivate perfect harmony; but his Britannic Majeſty's conduct towards the republic has been diametrically oppoſite.

"The differences between the courts of London and Verſailles had ſcarcely broke out, when they beheld the ports of England filled with Dutch veſſels, which were unjuſtly ſeized and detained: theſe veſſels navigated upon the faith of the treaties, and were not laden with any other merchandize than what the expreſs tenor of the treaties had declared free and legal. They beheld thoſe free cargoes forced to ſubmit to an arbitrary and deſpotic authority. The cabinet at St. James's knowing no other rule than an aſſumed right of *temporary convenience*, thought proper to appropriate thoſe cargoes to the uſe of the crown, by a forcible purchaſe, and to employ them in the ſervice of the King's navy. The moſt earneſt and ſerious repreſentations on the part of their High Mightineſſes againſt theſe proceedings were ineffectual, and it was in vain that they urged, in the ſtrongeſt manner poſſible, the treaty ſubſiſting between England and the republic. By this treaty, the rights and liberties of the *neutral flag* are deciſively and clearly ſtated. The ſubjects of Great Britain had fully enjoyed the advantages of this treaty, in the firſt, and only caſe, wherein it pleaſed the court of London to remain neuter, whilſt the republic was engaged in a war. Certainly then, in a reciprocal caſe, that court could not, without the greateſt injuſtice, refuſe the enjoyment of the ſame advantages to the republic; and as little right as his Britannic Majeſty had to withhold the advantageous effects of this treaty from their High Mightineſſes, he had as little foundation for attempting to make them quit the neutrality they had embraced, and to force them to plunge into a war, the cauſe of which related immediately to the rights and poſſeſſions of his Britannic Majeſty lying beyond the limits of defenſive treaties. And, notwithſtanding, this treaty, his Majeſty, from the commencement of the difference with the crown of France, has made no ſcruple of infringing and violating it. The treſpaſſes and infractions made on this treaty, on the part of Great Britain, and the arbitrary deciſions of the courts of juſtice in that kingdom, directly contrary to the expreſs ſanction of the ſame treaty, multiplied daily. The merchant veſſels became the innocent victims of the exactions and accumulated violences of the Engliſh men of war and privateers. They did not, however, reſt there: the very flag of the States was not ſpared, but openly and outrageouſly inſulted by an hoſtile attack upon the convoy under the care of Rear-admiral Count de Byland. The ſtrongeſt repreſentation from the States to his Britannic Majeſty were diſregarded, the ſhips taken from the convoy were declared good prizes, and this inſult on the flag of the republic, was very ſoon followed by an open violation of their neutral territory, as well in Europe as America. They will content themſelves, however, with reciting two examples.

"At the iſland of St. Martin, his Britannic Majeſty attacked, and carried away by force, ſeveral veſſels that lay at anchor under the cannon of the fort, where, according to the inviolable rights of mankind, the veſſels ought to have found a ſecure aſylum. The inſults committed by an armed Engliſh veſſel on the coaſt of the republic, near Geedereede, furniſh a ſecond example of theſe violations. Theſe inſults were carried ſo far, that many inhabitants of the iſland, who dwelt on the ſhore, where they ought to have ſuppoſed themſelves ſecure from any diſturbance, were expoſed, by the violence of the fire from the ſhips, to ſuch imminent danger, that they were forced to retire to the interior part of the iſland. Yet, for

1781 theſe unheard of proceedings, the republic, notwithſtanding the ſtrongeſt and beſt founded repreſentations, has not obtained the ſmalleſt ſatisfaction.

" Affairs being thus ſituated, ſo that their High Mightineſſes had no other alternative left them, but to ſee the navigation and commerce of their ſubjects, on which the ruin or proſperity of their republic alone depends, totally annihilated, or elſe to adopt meaſures hoſtile to their old friend and ally; at this period the Empreſs of Ruſſia, urged by a generous magnanimity of diſpoſition, thought proper to interfere, and with as much affection as humanity, invited the republic to take the juſteſt meaſures, and ſuch too as were entirely conſiſtent with the treaty ſubſiſting between the States and other powers, for the defending and maintaining, in conjunction with her Imperial Majeſty and the other northern powers, thoſe privileges and immunities which the rights of nations and the moſt ſolemn treaties allowed to neutral flags.

" This invitation could not but be infinitely agreeable to their High Mightineſſes, ſince they conſidered it as a means of ſecuring the undiſturbed commerce of their ſubjects upon the moſt ſolid baſis, and as holding out a method of protecting their independence againſt every infraction, at the ſame time that it propoſed nothing at all derogatory to the alliance contracted between them and his Britannic Majeſty, or the other belligerent powers. But this was a meaſure of which the court of London endeavoured to deprive the republic, by proceeding with precipitation to the moſt deſperate extremities, by recalling their ambaſſador, by the publication of a manifeſto, containing a liſt of fictitious grievances, and by granting letters of marque and pretended repriſal againſt the States, their ſubjects, and their property; by which violence, indeed, this court did nothing more than clearly carry into proof and practice the deſigns which they have for a long time foſtered, of diſregarding the true and eſſential intereſts which connect the two nations, and of deſtroying the bonds of their ancient amity, by an attack ſo replete with injuſtice.

" It will not be at all neceſſary to enter into an elaborate refutation of the reaſons, and pretended griefs which were alleged in the manifeſto, to convince every impartial man of their entire want of ſolidity. It will be ſufficient to obſerve, in few words, with reſpect to the offer which was made by his Britannic Majeſty for opening an amicable conference, that the ſole object of theſe conferences could only be this,—to take into conſideration the naval treaty ſpoken of above; that the conſtruction of this treaty, conceived as it is in terms the moſt clear and expreſs, could not be a ſubject of any doubt or equivocation; that it gives the neutral powers a free right of conveying to the belligerent powers all kinds of naval ſtores; that the republic, neither propoſing any thing elſe to themſelves, nor deſiring any thing more of his Britannic Majeſty, than the quiet, undiſturbed enjoyment of rights ſtipulated in this treaty, a point ſo manifeſt, and incontrovertibly equitable, could not perceive any reaſon or motive for a negociation, or any other new convention, which muſt have been derogatory to the treaty in queſtion, particulary as their High Mightineſſes could not prevail upon themſelves, nor experience the leaſt diſpoſition to renounce, voluntarily, rights juſtly acquired, nor to deſiſt from their rights by a regard fort he court of England; a renunciation, which, though advantageous to one of the belligerent powers, would be totally incompatible with the principles of neutrality, and by which their High Mightineſſes would, from another quarter, have ſubjected the ſtate to dangers, which they think it is their duty moſt ſolemnly to avert: a renunciation alſo, which would have carried with it a moſt irreparable injury to their commerce and navigation, which is the principal ſupport of the republic, and the ſource of all their proſperity; for the different branches of their commerce are ſeverally ſo intimately connected with each

A. D. 1781 each other, ſo as to form one whole, that it is impoſſible to ſeparate one part of ſo principal a nature as was expected by the court of London, without the entire ruin and deſtruction of the general body: not to mention, that at this time, when their High Mightineſſes made a reaſonable difficulty of acceding to the propoſed conference, they yet qualified and tempered this effectual exerciſe of their rights by a proviſional reſolution.

“ As for the ſuccours required, their High Mightineſſes cannot diſſemble, that they never could conceive how his Britannic Majeſty thought himſelf juſtified to inſiſt, under the moſt diſtant appearance of right or equity, for the aſſiſtance ſtipulated by the treaties, at the time when he had already foregone the obligation which they impoſed on him towards the republic. Their High Mightineſſes were not leſs ſurpriſed to ſee, that whilſt the diſturbances in America, and their direct conſequences, could not affect the republic by virtue of any treaty, and that the aſſiſtance had not been required before the declaration of the court of Spain had increaſed the number of the belligerent powers; his Britannic Majeſty had nevertheleſs taken occaſion, from this event, to inſiſt on his demand with ſo much earneſtneſs, as if his Majeſty had a right to pretend and maintain, that a war being once kindled between him and ſome other power, was alone ſufficient to compel the States to grant directly, and without any previous examination, the ſaid ſtipulated aſſiſtance.

“ The republic, it is true, had bound itſelf by treaties to aid and aſſiſt the kingdom of Great Britain, whenever that power ſhould be attacked or threatened with an unjuſt war: the republic was moreover to declare war, in ſuch a caſe, againſt the aggreſſor; but their High Mightineſſes never intended to give up that right which is the nature of a defenſive alliance, and which cannot be diſputed to the allied powers, to examine firſt, and before they grant the required aſſiſtance, or take part in the war, the principles of the diſſentions which have prevailed; the nature of the differences from which they ſprang; as alſo to inveſtigate and maturely weigh the reaſons and motives which may enforce the *caſus fœderis*, and which are to form the baſis of the equity and lawfulneſs of the war, on the part of that confederate ſtate claiming the aforeſaid aſſiſtance. There is not a treaty extant, by which their High Mightineſſes have foregone the independence of the States, or ſacrificed their intereſts to thoſe of Great Britain, ſo far as to deprive themſelves of the right of ſo neceſſary and indiſpenſable an examination, by taking ſuch ſteps as might inſinuate, that they ſhould be looked upon as compelled to ſubmit to the pleaſure of Great Britain, by granting the required aſſiſtance; even when the above court, being at variance with another power, thinks proper to prefer a war to an amicable accommodation on well ſupported complaints.

“ It is not therefore through ſpirit of party, or the ſcheme of a predominant cabal, but after a mature deliberation, and by a deſire of ſupporting the deareſt intereſts of the republic, that all the provincial ſtates reſpectively have, with one voice, teſtified they were of opinion, that the aſſiſtance required ſhould be politely refuſed; and their High Mightineſſes would not have failed to communicate to his Britannic Majeſty, in conſequence of thoſe reſolutions, an anſwer to the repeated requeſts for aſſiſtance, had they not been prevented from ſo doing, by the violent and unprecedented inſult offered to the Dutch flag, under the command of Rear-admiral Byland; by their being refuſed redreſs on ſo ſerious a matter, and by his Majeſty's declaration, no leſs ſtrange than unjuſt, in regard to the ſuſpenſion of the treaties which ſubſiſted between him and the republic. Theſe were ſo many events, which, as they required deliberations of a different kind, put an end to thoſe which were held in conſequence of the aforeſaid requiſitions. It is in vain, and in oppoſition to all truth, that endeavours have been

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A. D. 1781 uſed to multiply the number of grievances, by alleging the ſuppreſſion of duties on exports, as a meaſure calculated to facilitate the carrying of naval ſtores over to France: for, beſides that the ſaid ſuppreſſion is an object which reſpects the interior regulation of commerce, to which all ſovereigns have an incontrovertible right, and for which they are accountable to no one, the matter has been put in deliberation, but never finally reſolved upon; ſo that theſe duties are ſtill on the former footing: and what is ſet forth, reſpecting this matter, in the manifeſto, is totally groundleſs; though it cannot be denied, that the conduct of his Britannic Majeſty towards the republic, furniſhed their High Mightineſſes with but too many motives to juſtify ſuch a meaſure on their part.

"The diſpleaſure of his Britannic Majeſty, in regard to what has been done for Paul Jones, is equally groundleſs. Their High Mightineſſes had, for many years before, given general and poſitive orders for the admiſſion into their ports of all privateers and armed ſhips, with their prizes; orders which have been obſerved and executed without the leaſt exceptions: in this caſe, their High Mightineſſes could not deſiſt from ſuch orders, in regard to an armed ſhip, which, provided with a commiſſion from the American Congreſs, was in the Texel, together with the frigates of a ſovereign power, without aſſuming the part of judges, and giving a deciſion in a matter which their High Mightineſſes were not obliged to take any cognizance of, and in which it ſeemed to them contrary to the intereſt of the republic to interfere. Their High Mightineſſes, therefore, thought it beſt not to ſwerve from the rules eſtabliſhed for ſo long a time; but reſolved to lay the ſtrongeſt injunctions, leſt the ſaid privateers and armed ſhips ſhould take in any warlike ſtores; and deſired them to quit the road as ſoon as poſſible, without being permitted to ſojourn, but juſt as long as would prove abſolutely neceſſary to repair the damages ſuffered at ſea; declaring formally, at the ſame time, that in caſe of a longer delay, their departure ſhould be poſitively inſiſted upon. To this purpoſe, the commanding officer in the ſaid road took care to make every requiſite diſpoſition, the effects of which the privateer of Paul Jones had hardly time to prevent.

"In regard to what happened in other parts of the world, the informations tranſmitted to their High Mightineſſes, from time to time, from the Eaſt Indies, are in direct oppoſition to thoſe which ſeem to have been laid before his Britannic Majeſty. The frequent complaints of the Eaſt India direction, addreſſed to them, and which the love of peace had obliged them to ſmother, as it were, in their breaſts, are ſo many incontrovertible proofs of the aſſertion. The meaſures taken in regard to the Weſt Indies, before mentioned, will ſerve at all times for an unqueſtionable proof of the ſincerity, of the zeal, and of the attention with which their High Mightineſſes have aſſiduouſly endeavoured to obſerve, in theſe countries, the moſt exact and ſtrict neutrality; nor could their High Mightineſſes find out the leaſt legal proof of any infraction of their orders in this reſpect.

"As for what concerns the project of an eventual treaty of commerce with North America, framed by a member of the government of the province of Holland, without the ſanction of any public authority, and the memorials preſented on this matter by the Chevalier Yorke, the matter happened as follows:—

"As ſoon as this ambaſſador had preſented a memorial, dated November 10, 1780, their High Mightineſſes, without noticing the expreſſions, rather unbecoming between ſovereigns, with which this memorial abounded, did not delay entering into the moſt ſerious deliberation on that matter; and by their reſolution of the 27th of the ſame month, they did not heſitate to diſclaim and diſapprove publicly, whatever had been done in this affair.

"After

A. D. 1781 " After this, they had every reaſon to expect that his Britannic Majeſty would have acceded to this declaration; ſince he could not be ignorant that their High Mightineſſes have no juriſdiction over the reſpective provinces, and that it was to the ſtates of Holland to whom, as being inveſted, as the ſtates of the other provinces, with a ſovereign and excluſive authority over their ſubjects, was to be ſubmitted an affair, which their High Mightineſſes had no reaſon to doubt, but the other ſtates of the ſaid provinces would regulate according to the exigency of the caſe, and conformably to the laws of the ſtate, and the principles of equity. The eagerneſs with which the Chevalier Yorke, by his ſecond memorial, inſiſted on the puniſhment, could not, of courſe, but appear very ſtrange to their High Mightineſſes, that if he did not receive, the very ſame day, an anſwer to his memorial in every reſpect ſatisfactory, he ſhould find himſelf obliged to acquaint his court thereof by an extraordinary courier. Their High Mightineſſes, informed of this declaration, ſoon perceived its importance, as a manifeſtation of the meaſures already determined on in the King's council; and although, according to the eſtabliſhed cuſtom, ſuch verbal declarations from foreign miniſters admit of no deliberation, they, nevertheleſs, thought proper to ſet it aſide on this occaſion, and to deſire their recorder to wait on the Chevalier, and inform him, that his memorial had been taken *ad referendum*, by the deputies of the reſpective provinces, according to the received cuſtom and conſtitution of government; adding, at the ſame time, what ſeemed deſignedly omitted in the manifeſto, that they would endeavour to frame an anſwer to his memorial as ſoon as poſſible, and the conſtitution of government would permit. In conſequence thereof, a few days after, the deputies of the province of Holland gave notice to the aſſembly of their High Mightineſſes, that the ſtates of their province had, *una voce*, reſolved to require the advice of their court of juſtice in regard to the requiſition of puniſhment; requeſting the ſaid court to give their opinion as ſoon as poſſible, foregoing all other affairs. Their High Mightineſſes did not fail to acquaint the Chevalier Yorke with the above reſolve; but what was their ſurprize and aſtoniſhment, when they underſtood that the ſaid ambaſſador, after having read his inſtructions, had ſent a note to the recorder, wherein he called the above ſaid reſolve illuſive, and flatly refuſed to tranſmit it to his court! This obliged their High Mightineſſes to ſend it to Count Welderen, their miniſter at London, with orders to lay it immediately before the miniſter of his Britannic Majeſty; but the refuſal of the latter created an obſtacle to the execution of thoſe orders.

" All the circumſtances of this affair being thus expoſed, the impartial public will be able to appreciate the principal motive, or rather pretence, to which his Britannic Majeſty has had recourſe, in order to give a ſcope to his deſigns againſt the republic. To this we may reduce the whole matter:—His Britannic Majeſty was informed of a negociation which would have taken place between a member of the government of one of the provinces, and a repreſentative of the American Congreſs; which negociation intended to lay the plan of a treaty of commerce to be concluded between the republic and the ſaid colonies, *caſu quo*, that is to ſay, that in caſe the independency of thoſe colonies ſhould be acknowledged by the crown of England: this negociation, although conditional, and holding by a clauſe which depended on the anterior act of his Majeſty;—this negociation, which, without the ſaid act, or anterior declaration, could not have the leaſt effect, was ſo miſconſtrued by his Majeſty, and excited his diſpleaſure to ſuch a degree, that he thought proper to require from the States a public diſavowal and diſapprobation, as well as a complete puniſhment and ſatisfaction. It was in conſequence, and without the leaſt delay, that their High Mightineſſes acceded to the firſt part of his requiſition;

1781 but the puniſhment inſiſted upon, was not within their power; and they could not aſſent to it, without ſtriking at the root of the fundamental conſtitution of the ſtate. The ſtates of the province of Holland were the only ones to which it pertained lawfully to take cognizance of it, and to provide thereto by the ordinary means, and by the authority of the laws. This ſovereign ſtate, adhering to the maxims which oblige them to reſpect the authority of the laws, and fully convinced that the maintaining that department in all the integrity and impartiality which are inſeparable from it, is the firmeſt baſis of the ſupreme power; that ſovereign ſtate, obliged by what is held moſt ſacred, to defend and protect the rights and privileges of its ſubjects, could not forget itſelf ſo far, as to ſubmit to the will of his Britannic Majeſty, by attempting to overturn thoſe rights and privileges, and exceeding the limits preſcribed by the fundamental laws of its government: theſe laws required the intervention of the judicial department; and thoſe were the means which the above ſtates reſolved to uſe, by requiring, on this object, the advice of the court of juſtice eſtabliſhed in their province.

" By an adherence to this method, it was, that before the eyes of his Britannic Majeſty, the Engliſh nation, and all Europe, were diſplayed the unalterable principles of that juſtice and equity which form the leading feature of the Dutch conſtitution, and which, in ſo important a part of public adminiſtration, (we mean that which concerns the exerciſe of the juſticiary power) will for ever ſerve as a bulwark againſt whatever could militate with the ſecurity and independence of a free nation. It was alſo by theſe means, and by following this road, that, far from precluding juſtice, or evading the puniſhment required, a free courſe, on the contrary, has been laid open to a regular proceſs, conformably to the conſtitutional principles of the republic; and by the ſame reaſon, in ſhort, depriving the court of London of any pretence to complaint of a denial of juſtice, care has been taken to anticipate the leaſt ſhadow or appearance of reaſon, which might have authorized that court to make repriſals; to which, nevertheleſs, it has had recourſe without ſcruple, in a manner equally odious and unjuſt.

" To theſe ends, and ſince, after the repeated outrages and heavy loſſes which the ſubjects of this republic muſt have experienced from his Britannic Majeſty, their High Mightineſſes find themſelves furthermore provoked and aſſailed by his aforeſaid Majeſty, and compelled to uſe thoſe means which they have in hand, in order to defend the precious rights of their liberty and independence; they entertain the firmeſt hope that the Lord of Hoſts, the God of their fathers, who, by the palpable direction of Providence, ſupported and carried this republic through the greateſt dangers, will bleſs the means which they have determined to employ, by crowning the juſtice of their arms with the ever-triumphant aſſiſtance of his omnipotent protection; whilſt their High Mightineſſes will ardently ſigh after the inſtant, when they ſhall ſee their neighbour and old ally, but now their enemy, recalled to ſentiments more moderate and equitable. And it is at that period, where their High Mightineſſes will improve all the opportunities which, conſonant with the honour and independence of a free ſtate, may tend to a reconciliation between them and their old friend and ally.

" Thus given and ſettled in the aſſembly of their High Mightineſſes, our Lords the States-General of the United Provinces, at the Hague, the 10th day of March, 1781.

(Signed) " Cocq Haaftan, Vt.

" By command, H. Fagel.

Some time in the month of April, a memorial was preſented to the States-General by Mr. John Adams, agent for the American Congreſs at the Hague, declaring the firm reſolution of the ſeveral United States of America to maintain their independence, at all hazards; pointing out

A. D. 1781 out the advantages which would accrue both to Holland and America from a mutual alliance; and therefore requiring them to acknowledge the independence of the United States of America, and to enter into equitable treaties with them, and ſuch as ſhould be beneficial to both countries.

About this time, the King of Pruſſia acceded to the armed neutrality, which was become ſo formidable, as to oblige the court of London, in a ſhort time after, to make a conceſſion reſpecting the navigation of the Baltic, not quite conſiſtent with that high tone which had lately been aſſumed. A declaration was made by the King of Denmark, "That the Baltic being, from its peculiar and local ſituation, an incloſed ſea, in which the ſhips of all nations might, and ought to navigate in peace, and enjoy all the advantages of a public tranquillity, his Majeſty could not permit, that any ſhips of war or privateers of the belligerent powers, ſhould enter the ſaid ſea, with a view to commit hoſtilities againſt the ſubject of any ſtate whatever."—It was added, that the two other northern courts had adopted, and would ſupport the ſame ſyſtem. And on the 21ſt of April, orders and inſtructions were publiſhed in the London gazette, by which his Britannic Majeſty ſtrictly charged and enjoined the commanders of all ſhips of war, and the commanders of all ſhips and veſſels having letters of marque and repriſal, not to ſtop or detain any ſhips or veſſels in the Baltic, for the purpoſe of making prize of the ſame; but that they ſhould ſuffer all ſuch ſhips or veſſels as they ſhould meet in thoſe ſeas, to proceed on their reſpective voyages, without interruption.

Towards the cloſe of the month of March, the Count de Graſſe had ſailed from Breſt, with 21 ſhips of the line, and a fleet of merchantmen and tranſports, conſiſting of near 300 veſſels, on board of which were 6000 troops. His deſtination was for Martinico, where he was to be joined by another ſquadron; and from the inferiority of the Britiſh fleet commanded by Admiral Hood, which was ſent to oppoſe him, he arrived there with little interruption.

Thus ſtrengthened, the Marquis de Bouillé, governor of Martinico, on the departure of Admiral Hood for Barbadoes, made an attempt, which had been for ſome time in agitation, of ſurprizing the iſland of St. Lucia, the ſituation of which enabled the Britiſh to keep Martinico in a ſtate of continual alarm, and to diſcover and counteract all the motions of the French. For this purpoſe, in the night of the 10th of May, the French governor landed a ſtrong detachment at St. Lucia, and ſummoned the garriſon to ſurrender: but though it was, at this time, far from numerous, the commanders, after returning a reſolute anſwer to the meſſage, ſhewed ſuch a determined diſpoſition to reſiſtance, as well as ſuch able preparations to put it in execution, that the French did not dare to proceed in their intended attack, but withdrew, with their whole armament, to Martinico.

To compenſate, however, for this failure, a large body of French troops was diſpatched to effect a landing on the iſland of Tobago. On their appearance off the iſland, on the 23d of May, Governor Ferguſon diſpatched a ſwift ſailing veſſel with the intelligence to Sir George Rodney, at Barbadoes, who immediately ſent Admiral Drake, with ſix ſail of the line, ſome frigates, and a regiment and two additional companies, to its relief. On the 29th, (which was the day after the rear-admiral's departure) he received intelligence, that the French fleet had been ſeen to the windward of St. Lucia, and were apparently ſtanding towards Tobago. On Rear-admiral Drake's making the iſland, on the 30th, he diſcovered the enemy's fleet, of 27 ſail, to leeward, between him and the land. He immediately diſpatched his ſwifteſt frigates to inform Sir George Rodney of what had paſſed, as well as of his own return; and arrived in ſight of Carliſle bay on the 2d of June.

In the mean time, the French had landed their troops, to the number of 3000 regulars; whilſt, according to the governor's public account, the whole force that could be collected for the defence of the iſland, including regulars, militia, and ſeamen, amounted only to 427 whites, of all ſorts, who held arms in their hands; but to theſe were added a ſmall party of forty armed negroes, who behaved with undaunted courage on ſome very deſperate ſervice.

After ſome attempts to impede the progreſs of the enemy, Governor Ferguſon, with the regulars and militia, retired to a poſt called Concordia, which is an high, ſtrong ſituation, commanding both ſides of the iſland, where they were inveſted as cloſely as the nature of the ground would admit; the French general having in vain endeavoured to terrify the militia into a deſertion of their arms, by threatening plunder and confiſcation to their plantations, if they did not, in a ſhort given time, return to them.

The ſpirit and patriotiſm ſhewn by the planters in general, during this unequal conteſt, is highly deſerving of praiſe; but the extraordinary inſtances of magnanimity afforded by individuals, claims particular notice. On the firſt advance of the enemy, and diſpute about poſts, Mr. Collow generouſly propoſed to the governor to ſet fire to his own canes, in order to diſtreſs them on their march, and to impede their progreſs through a difficult and narrow country. During the ſiege of Concordia, Mr. Law, underſtanding that the governor was unwilling to deſtroy his dwelling-houſe, and the adjoining building, although they afforded ſome cover to the enemy, not only made the propoſal himſelf to have them burned, but carried it immediately into execution, under their fire, being aſſiſted only by his own negroes, who ſuffered not a little in the conflict: and when the garriſon were retired to their laſt ſtrong hold and faſtneſs, the way to which was extremely narrow, rugged, and utterly unknown to the enemy, neither the threats of immediate deſtruction to his property, nor of inſtant death to himſelf, could, in any degree, force him to the taſk of conducting the French army on their way to find the brave and patriot band that had devoted itſelf to the defence of the iſland.

A large reinforcement now arrived from Martinico with the Marquis de Bouillé, accompanied by the whole French fleet, under the Count de Graſſe. The iſland troops, therefore, were now ſo cloſely preſſed on all ſides, that very little hopes remained of their being able to maintain their ground; more eſpecially as they had received intelligence that the body of forces intended for their ſuccour, under the care of Admiral Drake, had been obliged to put back, to avoid the very ſuperior power of the French fleet. But, deprived as they were of all reaſonable hopes of ſuccour, they do not ſeem to have been diſcouraged. Reſolving to hold out to the laſt extremity, they now prepared to quit the place they had hitherto ſo bravely defended, but which could be no longer maintained, and retreated to a poſt on the main ridge, where a few huts had been built, and ſome ammunition and proviſions previouſly lodged, for that purpoſe. This retreat was ſo well conducted, that the place was evacuated at one in the morning of the firſt of June, and notwithſtanding the near ſituation of the enemy, the Marquis de Bouillé was ſo totally ignorant of the manœuvre, that he ſent a flag ſoon after daybreak to ſummon the garriſon to ſurrender.

The French general, enraged at the eſcape of an enemy whom he had conſidered as in his hands, and ſtill more provoked through the apprehenſion of the war being protracted, from that enemy's getting into a difficult country and an impracticable poſt, he began to depart from thoſe principles of liberal conteſt and amiable lenity which had hitherto diſtinguiſhed his conduct. He did not fail to order an immediate purſuit of the garriſon; but finding his troops overcome by the heat, while the fugitives were yet four miles before him, and that he could

A. D. 1781 not even procure any perſon who would conduct his army through the ſtrong country and intricate ways which they had to paſs, he determined to make terror unite with force in ſhortening a buſineſs which promiſed, otherwiſe, not only to become extremely troubleſome as well as tedious, but which might, in the iſſue, obſtruct thoſe great objects which the French fleet had in view. He accordingly ordered two capital plantations which were at hand to be deſtroyed; and finding that their deſtruction did not produce the deſired effect, he threatened to renew the ſame orders at the expiration of every four hours, until the iſland ſhould be ſurrendered. Governor Ferguſon ſtill wiſhed to protract the defence; but perceiving it to be impoſſible to prevent the inhabitants from making a ſurrender, he, at length, thought it moſt prudent, though he at firſt refuſed to concur in any capitulation, to interpoſe in making the beſt terms for the iſland, which he could poſſibly obtain under the circumſtances of it. The conditions were extremely favourable and advantageous: thoſe of Dominica were laid as the ground work by the governor; and though they differed in ſome points, the inhabitants were of opinion that Tobago had the advantage, in this particular, of its ſiſter iſland.

While the French were thus employed in the Weſt Indies, their allies, the Spaniards, were endeavouring to recover thoſe provinces on the continent of North America, which they had loſt in the preceding war. Don Bernardo de Galvez, governor of Louiſiana, had, in the two laſt years, been too ſucceſsful againſt the Britiſh ſettlements on the Miſiſſippi, and the town and fort of Mobille. Theſe ſucceſſes, and the conſequent reduction of General Campbell's ſmall force, naturally extended his views to the taking of Penſacola, and thereby compleating the conqueſt of the province.

After ſome unſucceſsful attempts in the laſt year, which had failed in their commencement, Don Galvez went himſelf to the Havannah, in order to forward, and take upon him the command of a great expedition from thence, which was intended for the beginning of the preſent. Fortune ſeemed at firſt to ſmile on Penſacola; but, unluckily, no means were, or probably could be afforded, to profit of the occaſion. A violent hurricane had almoſt ruined the Spaniſh fleet. Four capital ſhips, beſides others of different denominations, were totally loſt, and all on board periſhed. The loſs of lives were eſtimated at above two thouſand. The remainder of the ſhattered fleet put back to the Havannah, ſeveral of them being diſmaſted and greatly ſhattered. The critical arrival of four ſtore ſhips from Spain during their abſence, enabled them to refit ſpeedily; and knowing there was no Britiſh naval force in the way to oppoſe them, without waiting till the whole fleet was in condition, they diſpatched five ſail of the line, with ſeveral ſmaller veſſels of war, to conduct Don Galvez, with between 7,000 and 8,000 land forces, on the expedition. This armament arrived before Penſacola on the ninth of March in this year, and was followed ſoon after by Don Solano, with the remainder of the fleet, the whole amounting to 15 ſail of the line.

The principal ſtrength of the place was in the defence of the harbour; for while that was maintained, the enemy would not only be expoſed to great difficulties and diſadvantages in their landing, but afterwards, in the covering and carrying on of their approaches; and which would be ſtill too diſtant from the works to produce much effect. But the land batteries were not ſufficient to guard the entrance, without ſome naval ſupport; and that which they now had was weak indeed, conſiſting only of two ſloops, or other ſmall veſſels of war. Theſe, however, gallantly ſeconded the batteries, and both together gave much trouble and cauſed no ſmall delay to the enemy. Their vaſt ſuperiority of force, when it could be brought properly to bear, was, however, irreſiſtible. The paſſage was, accordingly, forced,—the landing effected,—

1781 ed,—the ground broken,—and the ſiege commenced in form by ſea and land. The garriſon was weak, and compoſed of almoſt all ſorts of men. Detachments from, or rather the remains of different Britiſh regiments; Maryland and Pennſylvania loyaliſts; ſome of the German troops of Waldeck; together with ſailors, marines, inhabitants and negroes; and before the place was cloſely inveſted, a few Indians formed the motley aſſemblage, whoſe lot it was to defend Penſacola againſt ſuch a formidable force.

It was, certainly, much to the honour of General Campbell, the governor, that there was not the ſmalleſt diſcordance in ſuch a various garriſon; and it was no leſs praiſe-worthy to themſelves, that the whole behaved bravely, patiently and obediently through every part of the ſiege. It is alſo proper to add, that the captains, officers and crews of the two royal ſloops of war, after burning their veſſels, bore a diſtinguiſhed part in defending the fort. Indeed every part of the defence was vigorous; and, notwithſtanding the weakneſs of the garriſon, ſome well directed ſallies were gallantly made and ſucceſsfully executed. In the firſt week of May, the beſiegers had done nothing that promiſed a ſpeedy attainment of their object. They were, however, by no means ſlow in advancing their works, and the fate of the place appeared to be inevitable. But it would ſtill have coſt them much more time and trouble to have become maſters of it, if an untoward accident had not fruſtrated the hopes of the beſieged.

The principal defence of the place conſiſted in a ſtrong advanced redoubt, by which it was covered, and which commanded the narrow approach to it on the land ſide. This was accordingly ſupported to the laſt, which had been hitherto done with ſo much ſpirit and reſolution, that the works had ſuffered leſs than could poſſibly have been expected. The accidental fall of a bomb near the door of the magazine belonging to the redoubt, and which lay under its center, determined the fate of Penſacola. The burſting of the bomb forced open the door, ſet fire to the powder within, and, in an inſtant, the whole body of the redoubt preſented nothing but an heap of rubbiſh. Of about 100 men who ſuffered by this exploſion, three parts loſt their lives, and the fourth were miſerably maimed and wounded. Two flank works, however, ſtill remained entire; and, by the extraordinary preſence of mind and intrepidity of the officers who commanded in theſe, and the ſkillful uſe they made of their artillery, the beſiegers, who ruſhed on to take advantage of the confuſion, and to ſtorm the place, were, in their firſt onſet, repulſed. By this brave exertion, time was obtained to carry off the wounded, and ſuch pieces of artillery as were not buried in the ruins: but the enemy ſoon after bringing up their whole force to attack the flank redoubts, they were of neceſſity abandoned.

The enemy, at length, made an appearance of advancing to ſtorm the body of the place; but the ſtate of preparation they perceived, induced them to relinquiſh the deſign. They, however, derived ſuch advantages from the poſſeſſion of the ruined redoubt, that the place was no longer tenable; for they commanded ſome of the principal batteries ſo effectually with their ſmall arms, that the ſoldiers and ſeamen could no longer ſtand to their guns. In theſe circumſtances, and without the moſt diſtant hope of relief, it would have been madneſs to prolong the defence. It may, however, be proper to obſerve, that in this ſtate of imminent danger, and with all the horrors of approaching deſtruction before them, not a ſingle word, concerning a ſurrender, was heard in the garriſon. An honourable capitulation was obtained by Mr. Cheſter, the governor of the province, and Major General Campbell; and that was all that could have been hoped or expected. The place was delivered up on the ninth of May, which was two months from the firſt appearance of the enemy before it. Thus fell the pro-

A. D. 1781 vince of Weſt Florida, which had been conſidered as one of the principal acquiſitions obtained for Great Britain by the treaty of Paris.

During the tranſactions which agitated Europe and America, the Britiſh empire in the Eaſt was harraſſed with no common viciſſitudes of fortune. The diſcontents which we have already ſtated to have ariſen in the Eaſt Indies, in conſequence of the eſtabliſhment of the ſupreme court at Calcutta, were accompanied with other very alarming circumſtances, which cauſed the affairs of the Eaſt India Company to be in a very critical and unſettled ſtate. The ſervants of the company, who preſided over the poſſeſſions of Great Britain in that rich and extenſive quarter of the globe, were, at this time, involved in a conteſt with the Mahrattas, who are the only people of Indoſtan that were not effectually ſubdued, or who did not unanimouſly ſubmit to the government, and acknowledge allegiance as fiefs to the throne of the Mogul. The celebrated Hyder Ally, one of the greateſt politicians and warriors ever known in India, had alſo been engaged in a war with the Mahrattas; but, afterwards, made peace and joined in a confederacy againſt the Engliſh. He complained, and we are afraid with ſome reaſon, that the latter had not kept their treaties with him; it was, at leaſt, very evident, that the company's ſervants had not adopted thoſe methods to keep on amicable terms with him, which a wiſe policy required. Hyder Ally, Regent of the kingdom of Myſore, was originally a ſoldier of fortune. He roſe, by degrees, from a low rank, to the ſupreme command of the Rajah's army; and, on the death of that Prince, impriſoned his ſon, whom he deſtined to ſucceed him on the throne, and ſeized the reins of government, aſſuming the title of guardian to the young Prince. Hyder Ally poſſeſſed an extenſive, valuable and well regulated country; he was able to bring into the field a very numerous and well diſciplined army; his revenues were great, and he was no leſs attentive to the payment than the diſcipline of his forces. At the cloſe of the year 1779, his military force was computed to conſiſt of 70,000 infantry, of which 20,000 were in regular battalions; 30,000 cavalry, of which 2,000 were Abyſſinian horſe that conſtantly attended his perſon; 10,000 Carnatic horſe, well trained; 400 Europeans; and 100 pieces of cannon, which were worked by Europeans. He poſſeſſed great courage and abilities; and it appeared, that his conduct in his civil capacity, has been ſupported by a degree of political addreſs, unequalled by any Aſiatic power that had yet appeared in Indoſtan. Monſieur Bellecombe, at Pondicherry, had kept up a conſtant correſpondence, and left no arts uneſſayed to engage him in the intereſt of the French; in which object his efforts were but too ſucceſsful.

In the month of July, 1780, Hyder Ally broke into the Carnatic with a very large army, and made a conſiderable devaſtation in that country. A ſhort time previous to this irruption, intelligence was diſpatched from Mauritius, that it was intended by the French to ſend to Hyder a conſiderable reinforcement of troops and a ſupply of military ſtores, to enable him to ruin the Carnatic, and to take advantage of the ſupine conduct of our Eaſt India Company's ſervants in that quarter.

It appears, indeed, that, at this time, there was a very criminal negligence in the government of Madras, reſpecting the preparations neceſſary to be made for oppoſing the progreſs of Hyder Ally, of whoſe hoſtile and alarming deſigns they had received very ſufficient information. On the ſeventh of September, Lieutenant Colonel Baillie, with a detachment of 300 European infantry, ſome artillery, three battalions of ſepoys, and ten pieces of cannon, was attacked by Tippoo Saib, the ſon of Hyder Ally, whom he defeated. Previous to this engagement Hyder himſelf had laid ſiege to Arcot, the chief town of the Carnatic; but, after

ſome

A. D. 1781 ſome fruitleſs days, thought proper to relinquiſh that expedition. Lieutenant Colonel Baillie being informed, that Hyder, with the main body of his forces, had got between him and Major General Sir Hector Munro, who commanded the grand Britiſh army, thought proper to halt where he was, and immediately diſpatched ſeveral letters by different routes to that General, informing him of his ſituation, and entreating him to make ſuch a motion with the army under his command as might effect their junction. The meaſures, however, adopted for this purpoſe, were not of the moſt expeditious nature, though a detachment was ſent to his aſſiſtance; but before he could complete his object of forming a junction with the grand army, he was attacked by Hyder Ally on the 10th of September. This action laſted ſeveral hours, and this handful of men, under the command of Colonel Baillie, not only ſuſtained themſelves with amazing reſolution againſt the infinitely ſuperior enemy, but would have gained the victory, if the accidental and unfortunate blowing up of ſome tumbrels of ammunition in the center of the Britiſh lines, had not effected more than Hyder Ally's prodigious army had been able to do. Though the deſtruction of men was great from this accident, the total loſs of ammunition was ſtill more dreadful to the ſurvivors. Tippoo Saib inſtantly caught the moment of advantage, and, without waiting for orders, fell with the utmoſt rapidity, at the head of the Myſore and Carnatic cavalry, into the broken ſquare of Britiſh troops, which had not yet time in any degree to recover its order or form; and the cavalry being ſpeedily followed by the French corps, and by the firſt line of infantry, the fate of that gallant band was no longer doubtful. All the Europeans were either cut to pieces or taken priſoners, and upwards of 2,000 ſepoys are ſaid to have lain dead on the field of battle. In this engagement Colonel Baillie and ſeveral officers were made priſoners. Colonel Fletcher and the Captains Rumſey and Powell were killed. This victory, however, according to the account given by an European reſident, at Hyder's court, who was preſent at the action, was very dearly purchaſed. The ſlaughter fell almoſt entirely upon the beſt troops of the enemy, and was ſo immenſe, that if a particular account of the loſs could have been obtained, it would have exceeded all bounds of conjecture or belief.

On receiving intelligence of this unfortunate action, a very ardent impatience to revenge their loſs, appeared in the army commanded by Sir Hector Munro; but the General thought it imprudent to indulge their ardour. He was conſcious of the weak ſtate of his army,—the diminution it had ſuffered from the detachment he had ſent to the aſſiſtance of Colonel Baillie, and which was now entirely loſt;—his total want of proviſions,—his entire deficiency of cavalry, and above all, the certain deſtruction of Madras and all the Britiſh ſettlements in the Carnatic, ſhould any enterprize, in the preſent poſture of affairs, be attended with misfortune. From theſe conſiderations, he reſolved to make a retreat, though much to the diſſatisfaction of the troops; and he accordingly marched to the neighbourhood of Madras, where he was now determined to wait for the reinforcements that were on their way thither, before he entered upon any offenſive operations.

The conſequences of the late defeat were, in the mean time, very alarming. The diſſentions in the preſidency became daily more violent; and its authority was ſo much diminiſhed, that a body of ſepoys openly revolted; and the countries in ſubjection to it, retained ſo little attachment to its government, that the greater part of the inhabitants were in the intereſts of Hyder Ally.

That Prince had renewed the ſiege of Arcot, the capital of the Nabob of that name, which, from the vigour with which it was carried on, and the diſ-affection of thoſe who were to defend

A. D. 1781 ſend it, to their ſovereign, the antient ally of our India Company, that Hyder took the place in the beginning of November, with an immenſe quantity of warlike ſtores, which fell into the hands of the enemy at a time when he was beginning to want them, and when they were equally neceſſary to thoſe for whom they were provided.

Such was the ſituation of affairs when Sir Eyre Coote, who had been requeſted by the Supreme Council of Bengal to take upon him the command of the army in the Carnatic, arrived at Madras with a reinforcement of Britiſh troops. Indeed, the unaccountable neglect which marked every department of adminiſtration there, ſeemed to be rather the effect of ſome domineering fatality, than either of weakneſs or indolence. The General himſelf obſerves in his letters to the directors, as well as to ſome of the principal officers of ſtate, that the ſame inactivity and bad policy, which had operated in not collecting the troops,—in the defect of every kind of preparation,—in leaving the paſſes open to Hyder's entrance,—and in many other ruinous inſtances, were ſtill prevalent at the time of his arrival; and that what ought to have been their firſt care, lay as much neglected as if no enemy had been near. That even the neceſſary arrangements for the ſecurity of Fort St. George, the very foundation of our exiſtence on that coaſt, had not been made; that no pains had been taken to recruit the ſhattered condition of the very ſmall army which remained for their defence; that the field artillery requiſite for a campaign, was ſo far from being in readineſs, that the carriages were then making up: that the troops were diſpirited,—the ſepoys deſerting,—the country deſolated,—the inhabitants treacherous,—all communications cut off,—their proviſions conſumed, and their reſources exhauſted. That the Nabob, ſo far from being able to give any aſſiſtance in this exigency, was himſelf without men, money, or influence, and looked up to the company to ſupport his intereſts and credit. To this was added the increaſing ſuperiority of the enemy, ariſing from his good policy, as well as the power of his arms; for that Hyder Ally had taken every meaſure which could occur to the moſt experienced General, to diſtreſs us, and to render himſelf formidable; and that his conduct, in his civil capacity, had been ſupported by a degree of political addreſs, unequalled by any power that had yet appeared in Hindoſtan. Such was the enemy, with whom the Eaſt India Company were now engaged in ſuch an arduous conteſt; and ſuch was part of a picture of the affairs of the Carnatic, drawn upon the ſpot, at the cloſe of the year 1780, by Sir Eyre Coote.

Among the many good conſequences which flowed from the arrival of that able officer, to take the command of the Carnatic, the unanimity which, from that moment, prevailed in the government, was among the firſt. The Council were unanimous in his ſupport, and wiſely committed the whole conduct and management of the war, without reſerve, into his hands. An appearance of vigour, in ſpite of actual weakneſs, and all the wretched circumſtances of affairs, accordingly took place in every department, and the enemy, impreſſed with a very juſt idea of the General's fame and great military talents, marked their future conduct with great and unaccuſtomed precaution.

Few generals ever had more difficulties to encounter, or a greater ſtake depending, than Sir Eyre Coote at this juncture. His whole force did not exceed 7,000 men, and the enemy he was to encounter commanded an army conſiſting of near 200,000. The Britiſh General, however, in the beginning of this year, moved from the encampment that had been ſo long occupied at Madras, and ſucceeded in forcing Hyder Ally to abandon Wandewaſh, which he was then beſieging. After forcing the enemy to relinquiſh his original enterprize, the next important ſervice was the ſecuring Pondicherry. After the reduction of that ſettlement two years before,

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1781 before, the French, who remained there, had been treated with the moſt exemplary lenity; their private property had been left untouched, and all their officers, both civil and military, had been indulged with every kind of liberty, on giving their parole. But the unexpected ſucceſſes of Hyder Ally, and the expectations of the ſpeedy arrival of a powerful ſquadron and conſiderable military reinforcement from France, had wrought ſuch a change in their behaviour, that they could not conceal their diſpoſition to avail themſelves of the firſt opportunity of breaking through their engagements with the Engliſh; in ſhort, ſuch was their conduct, that it was thought neceſſary to deprive them of their arms, to ſeize magazines which they had contrived to collect, and to deſtroy all the boats in their poſſeſſion. The neceſſity of theſe meaſures was ſoon juſtified by the arrival of a French ſquadron off Pondicherry, in full confidence of being ſupplied with water and other neceſſaries; but which was obliged to depart in great diſtreſs, for want of ſmall craft to convey them on board.

In the mean time, Sir Edward Hughes had performed great ſervice on the Malabar coaſt towards the cloſe of the year, by the deſtruction of Hyder Ally's ſhipping in his own ports of Calicut and Mangalore, and thereby blaſting his favourite hope of becoming a formidable maritime power.

Sir Eyre Coote's force being too weak to encourage adventure, and Hyder too cautious to hazard much without an abſolute neceſſity, nothing of conſequence took place for ſeveral months between the two armies. Such a ſtate of things, however, could not be laſting. Hyder having made preparations for the ſiege of Tritchinopoly, the Engliſh General marched with the army to Porto Novo, as well to fruſtrate that deſign, as to repreſs his depredation on the ſide of Tanjour, and the ſouthern provinces. In ſhort, on the firſt of July an engagement took place between the two armies, which laſted from nine in the morning till four in the afternoon. The very ſuperior ſkill and great experience of Sir Eyre Coote and his officers, and the bravery and diſcipline of his ſoldiers, were put, on this day, to a glorious trial;—it was not without the higheſt efforts of generalſhip and intrepidity, that the enemy was obliged at length to give way on all ſides, after having been foiled in every attempt, with a terrible ſlaughter of their braveſt troops, and the loſs of Hyder Ally's principal general and his beſt officers. But complete as this victory was, many of its advantages were loſt from the victors being unpoſſeſſed of the means of purſuit; as the want of cavalry gave the enemy an opportunity of carrying off his cannon and baggage, and to make good his retreat; while Sir Eyre Coote was forced to content himſelf with remaining maſter of the field. Several other engagements took place, in which the Britiſh troops were uniformly victorious, and the troops of Hyder Ally diſcouraged by a ſucceſſion of defeats, no longer poſſeſſed a ſpirit to ſecond the exertions of their leader.

Such was the ſurpriſing change, which the ſuperior conduct and military talents of Sir Eyre Coote, ſeconded by ſome excellent officers, and ſupported by the unparalleled efforts of a ſmall, but glorious army, had, in a ſhort time, produced in the affairs of the Carnatic; and ſuch were the leading events of one of the moſt arduous campaigns recorded in the annals of the world.

But previous to this favourable change in the company's affairs, a motion was made by Lord North, “That a committee of ſecrecy ſhould be appointed, to enquire into the cauſes of the war now ſubſiſting in the Carnatic; and of the preſent condition of the Britiſh poſſeſſions in thoſe parts; and to report the ſame with their obſervations thereon.” Though the acknowledged bad conduct of affairs in India, had rendered enquiries on that ſubject rather

popular,

A. D. 1781 popular, the propoſal of a ſecret committee met with much objection, and occaſioned a very ſpirited debate. The ſubject was certainly of the firſt importance, and, according to the appearances of the moment, the exiſtence of the Britiſh commerce and poſſeſſions in the Eaſt, depended upon the ſpirit and policy of the meaſures which were then to be purſued. Diſpatch was moſt eſſentially neceſſary in this enquiry, and a ſecret committee would certainly beſt anſwer that purpoſe; the objects of enquiry were likewiſe of a nature which required ſecrecy in the committee. Beſides, they were by no means of a judicial kind; it was not intended that this committee ſhould decide on the conduct of any man; their buſineſs was to report facts,—and if thoſe facts ſhould appear to the Houſe as grounds of accuſation againſt any individual, he would then have an opportunity of defending himſelf, and the proceedings, of courſe, muſt be public. The Houſe might alſo, if it ſhould think it neceſſary, call for the minutes of the committee,—a circumſtance which ſeems to do away the idea of any bad conſequences ariſing from the propoſed ſecrecy. The miniſter's motion was, however, at length carried, and the committee, beſides being poſſeſſed of the uſual powers to demand papers and examine witneſſes, were authoriſed to ſit in the India Houſe; to adjourn from time to time, and from place to place, as it ſuited their convenience; and to meet and purſue their enquiries during the receſs of Parliament.

The terms upon which the miniſter had ſome time ago propoſed a renewal of the Eaſt India Company's charter, were deemed by the company ſo highly injurious to the rights, and ſo exceedingly prejudicial to the intereſts of that body, that all negociation was broken off, and the buſineſs lay entirely dormant during the two laſt years. We have already related, that in the preceding ſeſſion, the Houſe of Commons paſſed a vote for giving the three years notice decreed by act of Parliament to the Company, previous to the diſſolution of their charter, that the capital ſtock or debt of 4,200,000l. which was owing them by the public, ſhould be fully diſcharged, according to the power of redemption, by the 5th of April, 1783.

The ſituation of public affairs certainly required that matters ſhould be brought to ſome concluſion with the Company,—and in order to accelerate their motions, the miniſter held out the following propoſitions to the conſideration of the Houſe of Commons:—whether it would be proper for the crown to take the territorial poſſeſſions and revenues entirely into its own hands, or to leave them to the management of a company? whether it would be proper to throw the trade to India entirely open, or to grant a monopoly of it to another company? or, if it ſhould be thought fitting to grant a new charter to the preſent company, he propoſed that it ſhould be only for a ſhort term, along with a conſiderable participation, to the public, in their profits and revenues: he further propoſed, that a tribunal ſhould be eſtabliſhed here for the purpoſe of controuling and judging of the management of affairs in India, and for puniſhing ſuch ſervants of the Company as ſhould be convicted of having abuſed their power; that all diſpatches received from India by the Directors, ſhould be communicated to the Secretary of State, and all diſpatches ſhewn to him before they were ſent. Theſe propoſitions concluded with a motion, that it was the opinion of that committee, that three-fourths of the ſurplus of the net profits of the Eaſt India Company, ever ſince the Company's bond debt was reduced to 1,500,000l. and the Company's dividend had been eight per cent. per annum, belong to the public,—and that 600,000l. in lieu thereof, and in diſcharge of all claims on the part of the public, be paid into his Majeſty's Exchequer by inſtallments, in ſuch manner, and ſuch times, as ſhall be agreed on.

This

This ſubject neceſſarily brought out every argument that could be employed on the different queſtions naturally ariſing from the conſideration of the rights of the Company, the claims of the public, and the interference of government. Nor was the buſineſs leſs agitated in the Company itſelf. On the 21ſt of May, a General Court of Proprietors was held at the Eaſt India Houſe, in order to take into conſideration the propoſitions ſubmitted by the Directors for the baſis of an agreement between Government and the Company, when ſome new matter was ſtarted, which aroſe from certain words in the firſt propoſition, that all the Company's preſent chartered privileges ſhall be preſerved entire, ſo far as is conſiſtent with the rights of the crown *and legiſlature.* It was propoſed to leave theſe laſt words out; and Mr. Rous, the counſel of the Company, was called upon for his opinion, who declared, without the leaſt reſerve, that the rights of the legiſlature were novel rights: that the rights of the crown were diſtinct; and ſo were thoſe of the Company derived from, and dependent on, thoſe of the crown: but he did not heſitate to give a moſt decided opinion, that the law and conſtitution knew of no rights of the legiſlature independent of the known privileges of Parliament, which had nothing to do in the preſent caſe. The words, therefore, *and legiſlature* were ſtruck out. The propoſition of the General Court of Eaſt India Proprietors were as follows:

"That all the Eaſt India Company's preſent charter rights be preſerved to them entire, ſo far as is conſiſtent with the rights of the crown;—that their excluſive trade be prolonged for ten years, from March the firſt, beſides the three years notice to be given according to the act of George II. and that, in order to alleviate, to the utmoſt of their power, the public burthen, the Directors are empowered to pay into the Exchequer 600,000l. on condition of receiving in return bills on his Majeſty's Exchequer, which, in caſe of any unexpected exigencies on the part of the Company, the commiſſioners of cuſtoms and exciſe ſhould receive as caſh for the Company's accruing duties; ſuch bills not to bear intereſt, or to be brought to market like other bills." But theſe propoſitions, when they were laid before the Houſe of Commons, were oppoſed by the miniſter, and ſet aſide by the parliamentary motion which we have already ſtated. In ſhort, Government and the Directors could not come to any concluſion in the buſineſs. Courts of proprietors were frequently held, and, in one inſtance, they refuſed to confirm an agreement which had been entered into by the Directors. In general, the terms held out by Government were conſidered as ſo unjuſt, that it was more than once propoſed in thoſe courts, as the beſt plan the Company could adopt, to diſpoſe of all their property at home and abroad, and putting an end to the political exiſtence, reſt their title to it on a legal deciſion.

In the mean time, the bad news which had arrived from India, and the dubious ſtate of the Company abroad, could not but affect the face of affairs at home, and operate conſiderably upon the meaſures and tranſactions on both ſides. The view of obtaining a large ſum of money, for the renewal of their charter, from the Company, was, in the preſent ſtate of things, totally cloſed. The miniſter, therefore, brought in a temporary bill, allowing the Company for a limited time, to continue their excluſive trade to India; to manage the territorial acquiſitions and poſſeſſions in Aſia; and to receive the revenues ariſing therefrom. The future proviſions of this bill, though they tended to eſtabliſh a very great participation to the public in the revenues and profits of the Company, were not much controverted, as the ſhortneſs of its duration would afford an opportunity for making ſuch alterations, as future circumſtances and opinions might ſuggeſt. But the retroſpective effect of this bill, in compelling the Company to pay the demand of 632,000l. made by Government, under a claim of participation

1781 cipation in its paſt profits, was ſtrenuouſly oppoſed; the Company likewiſe petitioned, and were heard, by counſel againſt it; however, it was at length carried, and after ſome faint oppoſition in the Houſe of Lords, received the royal aſſent at the cloſe of the ſeſſion: but the claim of 632,000l. upon the company, had been reduced in its paſſage through the Houſe of Commons to 402,000l. It may not be improper to add, in this place, that in conſequence of a report of the committee of proprietors, appointed to examine the Eaſt India Company's accounts, it appeared, that the balance in favour of the Company at the cloſe of the laſt year, appeared to be 13,458,877l. including the value of the Eaſt India Houſe and warehouſes, as eſtimated by the Company's ſurveyor.

On the 6th of June, the Houſe of Commons went into a committee, on a petition from the Governor and Company of the Bank of England. The miniſter ſtated the purport of it to be, that their charter expiring in the year 1785, they applied to Parliament for a renewal of it for 21 years from that period, for which they propoſed, as a valuable conſideration, to lend to Government 2,000,000l. for three years, at three per cent. The intereſt to be provided for by the ſinking fund; 1,000,000l. to be iſſued on the 15th of November following, and 1,000,000l. on the 15th of the ſucceeding February. This offer was conſidered by Government as fair and equitable both for the public and the Bank, and the money was to be applied towards paying off ſo much of the navy debt. The propoſition was oppoſed, as being unfavourable to the public; but after much debate, it was, at length, agreed to, and a bill was prepared accordingly, and in due courſe received the royal aſſent.

The hope of conciliation in ſome manner or form with America, and, conſequently, of withdrawing her from new connections, was not yet totally extinct; and, under this impreſſion, Colonel Hartley, one of the Knights of the Shire for the county of Berks, moved for leave to bring in a bill, to veſt the crown with ſufficient powers to treat, conſult, and finally agree upon the means of reſtoring peace with the provinces of North America; but this motion was rejected on a diviſion, by a majority of 106 to 72.

On the 18th of July, the ſeſſion was cloſed by a ſpeech from the throne, in which his Majeſty declared to both Houſes, that although the buſineſs of the ſeſſion had required a longer attendance than might have been conſiſtent with their private convenience, he was perſuaded that they looked back with ſatisfaction on the time they had employed in a faithful diſcharge of their duty to their country, in the preſent arduous and critical ſtate of public affairs. The zeal and ardour, he ſaid, which they had ſhewn for the honour of his crown, their firm and ſteady ſupport of a juſt cauſe, and the great efforts which they had made, to enable him to ſurmount all the difficulties of this complicated war, muſt convince the world, that the antient ſpirit of the Britiſh nation was not abated or diminiſhed. That, in the midſt of theſe difficulties, they had formed regulations for the better management and the improvement of the revenue; they had given additional ſtrength and ſtability to public credit; and their deliberations on the affairs of the Eaſt India Company, had terminated in ſuch meaſures as would, it was truſted, produce great and eſſential advantages to theſe kingdoms. His Majeſty added, that peace was the earneſt wiſh of his heart; but he had too firm a reliance on the ſpirit and reſources of the nation, the powerful aſſiſtance of his Parliament, and the protection of a juſt and all-powerful Providence, to accept it upon any other terms or conditions, than ſuch as might conſiſt with the honour and dignity of his crown, and the permanent intereſt and ſecurity of his people. The Parliament was then prorogued to the thirteenth of September following.

The

1781 The ſucceſs of Spain in America, did not compenſate for the conſtant diſappointment of all its efforts againſt Gibraltar. The ſiege of this important fortreſs was continued at a prodigious expence, but without making the leaſt progreſs. Nothing had been accompliſhed by the fleet and army that inveſted it, but to reduce the garriſon to great ſtraits, for want of a proper quantity of proviſions; but this inconvenience was ſupported with a degree of ready fortitude equally aſtoniſhing and meritorious.

From the departure of Admiral Rodney in the middle of February, 1780, the garriſon waited till the month of October, without making any alteration in the uſual rations; but as the winter was approaching, the apprehenſion of the danger and difficulty that might attend the ſending ſupplies, at that time of the year, induced Governor Elliot to reduce the allowance of bread and of meat, and to make ſome other regulations neceſſary for enforcing the ſtricteſt œconomy in the article of food.

In the beginning of the preſent year, proviſions began to be extremely ſcarce, from the expenditure of almoſt all that remained in the public ſtores, and the indefatigable vigilance of the enemy's cruizers, in cutting off the communication by ſea. About the middle of February, the town bakers left off work for the want of flour, and many of the poorer people wanted bread.

Of the moſt common and indiſpenſable neceſſaries of life, bad ſhip biſcuit, full of worms, was ſold at 1s. per pound; flour, in not much better condition, at the ſame price; old dried peas at a third more; the worſt ſalt, half dirt, the ſweepings of ſhips bottoms and ſtorehouſes, at 8d.; old Iriſh ſalt butter, at 2s. 6d.; the worſt ſort of brown ſugar brought the ſame price; and Engliſh farthing candles were ſold at 6d. a piece: but freſh proviſions bore ſtill more exorbitant prices. Even when the arrival of veſſels from the Mediterranean opened a market, turkies ſold at 3l. 12s. a piece; ſucking pigs at 2l. 2s.; ducks at 10s. 6d.; and ſmall hens ſold at 9s. a piece. A guinea was refuſed for a calf's pluck; and 1l. 7s. aſked for an ox's head. To heighten every other diſtreſs, the firing was ſo nearly exhauſted, as ſcarcely to afford a ſufficiency for the indiſpenſable culinary purpoſes; ſo that all the linen of the town and garriſon was waſhed in cold water, and worn without ironing. This want was moſt ſeverely felt in the wet ſeaſon; which, notwithſtanding the general warmth of the climate, is exceedingly cold at Gibraltar.

The diſtreſſes of the garriſon were well known in England, as well as the abſolute neceſſity of relieving them without delay: but the numerous demands of aſſiſtance from the various quarters of the world where the war was carrying on, rendered this ſervice, however indiſpenſable, a matter of the greateſt difficulty. So deeply, however, were the intereſts and honour of Great Britain engaged in the relief of this important fortreſs, that to effect it was one of the firſt objects of Government in the beginning of the preſent year; and the grand fleet, under the conduct of the Admirals Darby, Digby, and Sir Lockhart Roſs, was fitted out early for this ſervice. It ſailed from Portſmouth on the 13th of March, with the great Eaſt and Weſt India convoys. The neceſſity of taking in proviſions, detained it ſome time at Corke, in Ireland; from whence it proceeded with the whole fleet. When the merchantmen ſeparated from it, to continue their reſpective voyages, the Engliſh Admiral ſteered directly for Cadiz, where he ſaw the Spaniſh fleet, after all the threats and boaſts of Spain, lying peaceably at anchor, without the ſmalleſt appearance of any intention to interrupt the deſtined relief of Gibraltar.

A. D. 1781 Nothing could be more grievous to Spain than this event, nor more mortifying to her pride than the diſgrace which, after all her boaſting, her navy now ſuffered in the eyes of all Europe. She had ſet her heart ſo entirely on the recovery of Gibraltar, that ſhe ſcarcely ſeemed to have another object in the war. She laviſhed her treaſures, with an unſparing hand, in that purſuit. The labour of the nation was exhauſted in the ſtupendous works which ſhe raiſed before the place, and the whole naval and military force of the ſtate, and its reſources of every ſort, ſeemed directed to that ſingle object. The batteries were mounted with guns of the heavieſt metal, and with mortars of the largeſt dimenſions; the number of the former amounted to near two hundred, and of the latter to near fourſcore. The cannonade and bombardment, from this vaſt arrangement of artillery, was dreadful beyond deſcription. It was computed, by the artillery officers and engineers in the garriſon, that, during more than three weeks from the firſt attack, the enemy continued regularly to expend, at leaſt, 1,000 barrels of gunpowder, of 100 pounds weight each, and to fire from 4,000 to 5,000 ſhot and ſhells, in every 24 hours, upon the fortreſs. No powers of ſupply could long ſupport this expenditure: after diſcharging 75,000 ſhot, and 25,000 ſhells, in this courſe of firing, it was then lowered to about 600 of both in the 24 hours, on which reduced ſcale it was continued for ſeveral weeks.

The narrow extent of the ſpot upon which this ſhower of deſtruction fell, was too much expoſed to eſcape its effects. The houſes, in number about 500, were moſtly deſtroyed, and the inhabitants, computed at upwards of 3,000, experienced every hardſhip that could ariſe from the deſtruction of their dwellings: they were forced to take ſhelter at a diſtance under tents, with ſuch accommodations as could be contrived in ſuch a ſcene of confuſion and horror. On the departure of the fleet, many of them took that opportunity of returning to England, for which purpoſe they were allowed a free paſſage, and ſupplied with proviſions for the voyage.

Towards the cloſe of the ſummer, however, the fury of the Spaniards ſeemed to be exhauſted before Gibraltar. The works were found, by experience, ſuperior to all their efforts, and the town being deſtroyed, there ſeemed to be nothing further to be done by the repetition of bombardment. Their gun-boats ſtill continued to be troubleſome at night, which ſerved to keep the garriſon in perpetual alarms; but the Governor having received ſome cannon of a very long bore, which were ſent for the purpoſe from England, had them fixed on the neareſt batteries, ſo that their ſhot reached to the very center of the Spaniſh camp: and it being obſerved, that theſe were fired in return for the attacks of the boats, the Spaniſh commanders found it convenient to reſtrain the one, in order to obviate the miſchief and confuſion occaſioned by the other.

By the latter end of November, the beſiegers had, with immenſe toil and expence, brought their works to that ſtate of perfection they intended. The beſt engineers in France and Spain had united their reſpective abilities upon this occaſion, and both kingdoms poſſeſſed the moſt ſanguine expectations of their ſucceſs. At this moment, General Elliot meditated a blow which was deſtined to avert their deſigns, and to produce a total deſtruction of the fruits of ſo much time, ſkill, and perſevering labour.

On the 27th of November, a moſt ſpirited ſally was made by the garriſon, to ſtorm and deſtroy the whole of the advanced works of the Spaniards. The detachment, which was appointed for this enterprize, was formed in three columns, and marched out at the ſetting of the moon about three o'clock in the morning. The columns were ſeverally compoſed of an advanced corps, a body of pioneers, artillery men carrying combuſtibles, and a ſuſtaining

1781 corps, with a reſerve at the rear. The pioneers of the left column were ſeamen. Nothing ever exceeded the ſilence and order of the march, the vigour and ſpirit of the attack, or the nice and exact combination of all its parts. The whole front of the Spaniſh works were attacked, at the ſame moment, with ſuch irreſiſtible fury, that the enemy, after a ſcattering fire, which was of no long continuance, gave way on all ſides, and abandoned their ſtupendous works with the utmoſt precipitation. The pioneers and artillery men exerted themſelves in ſuch a wonderful manner, and ſpread their fire with ſuch amazing rapidity, that, in half an hour, two mortar batteries of 10 thirteen inch mortars, and three batteries of 6 guns each, with all the lines of approach, communication and traverſe, were in flames, and ſhortly reduced to aſhes. The mortars and cannon were ſpiked, and their beds, carriages and platforms deſtroyed. The magazines blew up one after another in the courſe of the conflagration. The aſtoniſhed Spaniards, perceiving that all oppoſition would be fruitleſs, offered no other reſiſtance than an ill-directed fire of round and grape ſhot from the forts of St. Barbara, St. Phillip, and the batteries on the lines, and remained in their camp the tame ſpectators of the deſtruction which they could not prevent. The whole ſervice was performed, and the detachment returned to the garriſon, before day break. Two hours were found ſufficient to complete this active, important and glorious exploit.

One of the firſt objects in contemplation among the mercantile claſſes in Holland, was the interception of the fleet that was conveying to England the ſpoils of St. Euſtatius. Preparations were accordingly made for that purpoſe; but they were not ready at the time propoſed; and fortune threw their rich prize into other hands. The French Admiral, Monſieur de la Motte Piquet, availing himſelf of the Britiſh fleet, under Admiral Darby, being engaged in the relief of Gibraltar, ſailed from Breſt, and, on the ſecond of May, fell in with the St. Euſtatius convoy, of which he captured more than half; the remainder took ſhelter in the neareſt ports of Ireland.

A ſecret expedition to a very remote part of the world, was ſuppoſed to have been, for ſome time, in the contemplation of the Britiſh miniſtry. The reports of great commotions in Peru and ſome other of the Spaniſh dominions in America, made it generally imagined, that the South Seas would have been the deſtination of ſuch an armament. It ſeems, indeed, probable that the numerous exigencies of the war could alone have delayed the proſecution of a deſign, which promiſed to be attended with the moſt fatal conſequences to the enemy.

At this time, the deſign was not only revived but adopted. A ſmall ſquadron, whoſe objects and deſtination were kept ſecret, under the conduct of Commodore Johnſtone, with a body of land forces, commanded by General Meadows, accompanied the grand fleet on its departure for the relief of Gibraltar. The object of this armament was undoubtedly changed in conſequence of the Dutch war, which occaſioned an attempt upon the Cape of Good Hope to be ſubſtituted, in the place of the larger field of South America. France being almoſt as much intereſted as Holland itſelf, in the preſervation of this place, readily exerted itſelf for the protection of it againſt the deſigns of Great Britain. M. de Suffrein, an officer of great courage, ſailed immediately with five ſhips of the line, beſide frigates, and a body of land forces, to oppoſe the Britiſh armament. The French commander came up with the Engliſh fleet at the Cape de Verd Iſlands, and attacked it whilſt lying under the protection of the Portugueſe flag, in Port Praya, in the iſland of St. Jago; ſeveral outward bound Indiamen being alſo under the Commodore's convoy and then in that port. At the time when the French ſquadron arrived, which was the 16th of April, 1781, at leaſt 1,500 perſons were abſent

A. D. 1781 abſent from the Britiſh fleet, who were engaged in watering, fiſhing, embarking live cattle, and other neceſſary occupations: ſignals were however immediately thrown out for the people aſhore to haſten on board, and every preparation was made to receive the enemy. Although the Britiſh ſquadron was completely ſurprized on this occaſion, it ſtood the attack of a much ſuperior force with a coolneſs and reſolution, at which the French were equally aſtoniſhed and perplexed, who had promiſed to themſelves an eaſy victory.—They were, however, beaten off; and one of the Eaſt Indiamen, which they had taken, was recaptured.

Having repaired the damages received in this engagement, the Britiſh ſquadron left Port Praya on the 2d of May, on the proſecution of its original plan: and about the middle of June, the Commodore diſpatched Captain Pigot, with ſome of the beſt ſailing frigates and cutters, to proceed towards the ſouthern extremity of Africa, in order, if poſſible, to obtain ſome intelligence of the ſtate of the enemy in that quarter. That officer had the good fortune to fall in with, and capture, a large Dutch Eaſt India ſhip, of 1200 tons burthen, which had lately ſailed from Soldanha bay, near the Cape, and was laden with ſtores and proviſions, beſides 40,000l. in bullion, for the iſland of Ceylon. By this circumſtance information was obtained, that M. de Suffrein, with five ſail of the line, moſt of his tranſports, and a conſiderable body of troops, had arrived at Falſe Bay on the 21ſt of June; and that ſeveral Dutch Eaſt India ſhips, homeward-bound, but afraid to proceed, were then at anchor in Soldanha Bay, which lies about 14 leagues to the northward of Cape Town and fort.

To explain the cauſe of their lying at ſo great a diſtance from their principal ſettlement and defence, it may be neceſſary to obſerve, that Table Bay, upon which theſe lie, is not only much ſmaller, and leſs convenient than that of Soldanha, but is exceedingly dangerous to ſhipping during the winds that blow in the ſummer months. Theſe bad properties attending Table Bay, was the motive of M. de Suffrein's anchoring in Falſe Bay, which lies at the back of that very long and narrow neck of land running far out into the ſea, the mountain at whoſe head, forms what is properly called the Cape. The bottom of this bay lies within about three leagues, by land, of Cape Town, which is ſituated a little higher up, on the oppoſite coaſt, than the junction of the continent with the peninſula, although the paſſage by ſea round the neck, is long, difficult, and dangerous.

The arrival of the French ſquadron and troops at the Cape, having fruſtrated the principal deſign of Commodore Johnſtone's expedition, he determined to profit of what was yet within reach, by an attempt upon the Dutch ſhips in the Bay of Soldanha. This ſcheme was ably and ſucceſsfully conducted: of the five ſhips which were there, he took four; the other was unfortunately burned.—They were all veſſels from 1000 to 1100 tons burthen.

The war with Great Britain was by no means a popular act in Spain, and was generally conſidered rather as a court meaſure, originating from the influence of French counſels, than as the reſult of a policy founded on the real intereſts of that country. The little ſucceſs, and the immenſe expence with which it had been hitherto attended, could not but increaſe the public diſſatisfaction; and the court itſelf ſeemed, at length, to conceive a jealouſy that France had been more attentive to other objects during the war, than to thoſe which were ſo intereſting and ſo dear to itſelf. It became neceſſary, therefore, for the court of Verſailles to remove theſe impreſſions; and as neither Jamaica nor Gibraltar could afford any ſuch opportunity, for the preſent, the ſequeſtered iſland of Minorca, which, from the nature and particular circumſtances of the war, was almoſt cut off from the poſſibility of ſuccour, could not eſcape obſervation, as the object immediately offering for the purpoſe.

A. D. 1781 The formation of this enterprize took place early in the preſent year, but was for ſome time retarded by the greatneſs of the preparations it required. They were not completed till the latter end of June, when M. de Guichen ſailed from Breſt, at the head of a ſquadron conſiſting of the moſt formidable ſhips in the French navy: they were joined at Cadiz by 30 Spaniſh ſhips of the line, and a large number of tranſports, carrying a body of 10,000 regular troops.

Great Britain had now ſo many objects to employ her attention, and they were all of ſuch moment, that a ſufficient ſtrength could not be collected in time to prevent the junction and intended movements of the French and Spaniards, at the period and diſtance at which they were made. The combined powers left Cadiz about the end of July, and landed their forces at Minorca on the 20th of Auguſt. Here they were ſhortly after joined by about 6000 French from Toulon. The joint army of both crowns was entruſted to the command of the Duke de Crillon, a French general of great reputation.

It was the fate of Minorca, at this juncture, to be totally unable to make any effectual reſiſtance againſt ſuch a powerful enemy. The garriſon conſiſted only of four regiments, two of them Britiſh, and two Hanoverian: they were, however, excellent troops, and commanded by two diſtinguiſhed officers; Lieutenant-General Murray, formerly governor of Quebec, now held the ſame rank in Minorca, and was ſeconded by Major-General Draper, who commanded at the conqueſt of Manilla in the preceding war. But the ſoldiers were ſickly, and from that cauſe, as well as the ſmallneſs of their number, inadequate to the defence that would be neceſſary againſt ſuch a multitude of aſſailants. Hence it was ſoon foreſeen, that the preſervation of Minorca would prove a very difficult, if not an impracticable undertaking; eſpecially when the obſtructions to all ſuccours were taken into conſideration.

The combined fleet was contented with ſeeing the troops ſafe into the Mediterranean, and then, truſting them to a ſmall convoy, returned, to the amount of near fifty ſail of the line, to cruize at the mouth of the Engliſh Channel. Though this was an effectual means of preventing any ſuccour from being ſent to Minorca, the enemy had other objects in view: they hoped to intercept ſome of our great homeward-bound convoys, which were then every day expected; and a very large outward-bound fleet, which was on the point of its departure from Corke, in Ireland, held out a ſimilar temptation. Nor can it be ſuppoſed that the general alarm and confuſion which it was expected their appearance in the Channel, at ſo critical a ſeaſon, would occaſion in theſe kingdoms, was, by any means, overlooked in the deſign. As the enemy was enabled, from the great number of ſhips, to ſtretch acroſs the entrance of the Channel, it was reſolved in England, notwithſtanding the vaſt ſuperiority which oppoſed it, that the naval force then in readineſs, conſiſting of thirty ſhips of the line, ſhould proceed immediately to ſea, in order to the preſervation of the expected Weſt India fleet, an object for which it was to encounter every danger. Admiral Darby, who commanded the Britiſh fleet, prepared accordingly for the execution of his orders; and the moſt determined ſpirit to ſecond him, was manifeſted by all thoſe who ſerved under him: but he was detained by contrary winds in Torbay till the middle of September; during which time the enemy remained in poſſeſſion of the ſea adjacent to the weſt of England and the ſouth of Ireland, and occaſioned no ſmall alarm for the ſecurity of the trade returning from Jamaica, and the other leeward iſlands. The great outward-bound fleet for America and the Weſt Indies, was not only ſuppoſed to be in danger in the open harbour of Corke, but that city itſelf, which is totally unfortified, and at that time ſtored with immenſe quantities of proviſion, was conſidered as a very probable object of attack from the combined fleet.

The

A. D. 1781

The wind ſtill confining the Britiſh fleet in Torbay, the French and Spaniſh admirals were tempted, by its inferiority, to attack it in that poſition; but, after much debate on the ſubject, that deſign was laid aſide, for the eaſier taſk of intercepting the expected fleet from the Weſt Indies. With theſe intentions, the combined fleet bore away from the Channel; but the weather, very ſoon after, became ſo tempeſtuous, that they were obliged to relinquiſh their views, and make the beſt of their way to their reſpective ports.

In the mean time, the Britiſh mercantile fleets arrived ſafe from every quarter, to the great mortification of France and Spain; as they had employed the utmoſt exertions to cut off thoſe reſources for the proſecution of the war, ariſing from the prodigious importations of wealth from the tranſmarine poſſeſſions of Great Britain; being conſcious that the humiliation of this country could never be effected by any other means than by wounding her commerce.

The war had hitherto languiſhed in Europe, as well as in every other quarter, on the ſide of Holland. Their fleets were not only in a very bad condition, but they aſtoniſhed the world by the diſcovery of a weakneſs by no means ſuſpected, conſiſting in a deficiency of ſeamen, and a total want of naval ſtores, in both of which they had ever been held to abound beyond any other nation, except England. The vicinity and ſituation of their ports, even with that ſtate of imperfect preparation in which they now were, proved, however, a very mortifying check upon the naval operations of Great Britain in the courſe of the year, and prevented ſome of thoſe vigorous exertions which might have been otherwiſe made againſt her other enemies. It became abſolutely neceſſary to keep a ſquadron in the Downs, as well to watch their motions in general, as to prevent their intercourſe with the ſouthern parts of Europe: and it was ſtill more eſſentially requiſite to have ſuch a force in the north ſeas, as would be capable of ruining their immenſe commerce on that ſide, and of effectually protecting our own; including alſo the further great object of preventing the poſſibility of reſtoring their marine, by cutting off their only ſources of every kind of naval ſupply.

This very important ſervice was committed to the conduct of Admiral Hyde Parker, a veteran commander of eſtabliſhed reputation, who ſailed from Portſmouth in the beginning of June, with four ſhips of the line, and one of 50 guns, for the north ſea. The Dutch, in the mean time, were employed in equipping a number of their ſtouteſt ſhips, for the protection of a large fleet of merchantmen bound to the Baltic. The command of them was given to Admiral Zoutman, a reſolute and experienced ſeaman, who ſailed from the Texel about the middle of July: his force conſiſted of eight ſhips of the line, from 74 to 54 guns, ten frigates, and ſome other armed veſſels; moſt of their frigates were very large, and carried an uncommon weight of metal. They were alſo joined by the Charleſtown, an American frigate of an extraordinary conſtruction, ſhe being as long and as large as a ſhip of the line, with ſeveral hundred men on board, and thirty-ſix 42 pounders upon one deck: ſhe took this opportunity of ſailing with the Dutch fleet, in order to go north-about, on her way to America.

Admiral Parker was on his return with a large convoy from Elſineur. He had been joined by ſeveral frigates ſince he left Portſmouth, and by the Dolphin of 44 guns; and, in this moſt critical and dangerous conjuncture, was very timely reinforced by Commodore Keith Stewart, in the Berwick of 74 guns, who had been for ſome time on the coaſt of Scotland. The Britiſh force conſiſted of an old 80 gun ſhip, carrying no heavier metal than a 50, an old 60, that had been diſcharged, but was lately refitted for ſervice, two of 74, a 64, and a 50; to which the admiral was obliged to add the Dolphin frigate, in order to ſupply the inequality in number of his line of battle to that of the enemy.

A. D. 1781 The hoſtile fleets came in ſight of each other, on the Dogger Bank, very early in the morning of the the 5th of Auguſt, 1781; when Admiral Parker, perceiving the number and ſtrength of the enemy's frigates, detached the convoy, with orders to keep their wind, ſending his own frigates along with them, for their protection; and as ſoon as this diſpoſition was made, he threw out a general ſignal for the ſquadron to chaſe the enemy. The Dutch were by no means diſpoſed to ſhun the conflict: they likewiſe detached their convoy to ſome diſtance, when they drew up with great coolneſs in order of battle, and waited the ſhock with the utmoſt compoſure. None of that manœuvring was practiſed, on either ſide, through which the French had eluded the complete deciſion of ſo many naval actions. Admiral Parker, in the Fortitude, ranged a-breaſt the Dutch admiral's ſhip, and the action commenced with the utmoſt fury and violence on both ſides. The cannonade continued, without intermiſſion, for three hours and forty minutes: ſome of our ſhips fired between 2000 and 3000 ſhot each.—The Dutch ſhips were much ſuperior in weight of metal to the Engliſh of the ſame rates:—This difference, however, was but little conſidered; but their heavy frigates, as well as the Charleſtown, having intermixed with their line, took a very effective part in the action, and did conſiderable miſchief, by raking our ſhips, and firing at their rigging, while cloſely and deſperately engaged with a ſuperior enemy. Such returns were however made, that they paid dearly for their temerity; and the Charleſtown, among others, ſuffered ſo ſeverely, that it was long ſuppoſed ſhe had gone down either in, or ſoon after the action.

At length, both ſquadrons had received ſo much damage, that, about noon, they were become equally unmanageable. The Britiſh admiral exerted his utmoſt ſkill to keep his ſhips in a line, and to continue the action, but found it impracticable: the Dutch were in the ſame ſituation.—The Engliſh ſhips were chiefly wounded in their maſts and rigging; but as they fired entirely at the hulls of the enemy, and, by their ſuperior alertneſs and expedition, diſcharged a much greater quantity of ſhot, the Dutch ſhips were ſo extremely ſhattered, that they were with the utmoſt difficulty kept above water, until they reached, ſeparately, and in the greateſt diſtreſs, notwithſtanding the aid of their numerous frigates, ſuch of their ports as were neareſt to them: but the Hollandia of 68 guns, and one of their beſt ſhips, went down in the night after the engagement; and the danger was ſo ſudden and extreme, that the crew were reduced to the melancholy neceſſity of abandoning their wounded in quitting the ſhip.

This was a very bloody action.—The ſlain and wounded, on board the Britiſh ſquadron, amounted to about 450, among whom were ſeveral officers of very ſuperior merit:—The ſame liſt, on board the Dutch ſhips, though endeavoured to be concealed, was well known to exceed a thouſand.

Such was the iſſue of this celebrated engagement; the firſt that had taken place between the Engliſh and the Dutch for upwards of a century. The valour and emulation diſplayed by both parties, was in no degree inferior to that which had been exerted by their reſpective anceſtors, when contending for the empire of the ocean, in the days of Cromwell and Charles the Second.

The advantage was certainly on the ſide of the Britiſh admiral: he remained, with his ſquadron, on the place of action after the enemy had quitted it; while the Dutch were obliged to abandon to their own care the merchantmen under their convoy, who were compelled to drop the proſecution of their voyage, and to make the beſt of their way to their reſpective ports.

This

A. D. 1781 This was one of the ſevereſt diſappointments that could have befallen the Dutch; in this fleet were centered the hopes and reſources of the mercantile claſſes, which had been at a vaſt expence in fitting it out, for its uſual deſtination to the northern parts of Europe: they now ſaw themſelves totally excluded from that principal fund of their commercial opulence, and obliged, to their great mortification, to have recourſe to the aſſiſtance of France for protection on their own coaſts.

On the return of the Britiſh ſquadron to the Nore, the ſervice done to the public by the admiral, was noticed in the moſt diſtinguiſhed manner. The King honoured him with a viſit, and treated him with thoſe marks of attention and regard to which he was ſo eminently entitled.

During the remainder of the year, the ports of Holland were completely blocked up, and its trade intercepted from the moſt beneficial quarters. The Dutch, who had not for a century experienced any of the diſtreſſes ariſing from a naval war, now felt them to a great extent. The commonalty, upon which, of courſe, it chiefly fell, was loud and ungovernable in its murmurs; and it was for ſome time imagined, that the hardſhips under which it laboured, would have produced internal commotions of a dangerous nature: certain it is, that no little alarm was excited, and that the diſcontents were ſo general, that ſuſpicions of that kind did not appear entirely void of foundation.

In the ſummer of this year, the following paper, propoſing the intermediation of the King of Sweden between Great Britain and Holland, was preſented by Baron Nolken, the Swediſh miniſter reſident in London, to Lord Stormont, one of his Majeſty's principal ſecretaries of ſtate.

" The King does not imagine it neceſſary, at this time, for him to enter into an explanation of the principles which have governed his conduct ever ſince he aſcended the throne of his anceſtors. He has been guided by the love of peace; and he could have wiſhed to have ſeen all the other European powers enjoy that bleſſing as uninterruptedly as himſelf. Theſe deſires, dictated by his natural ſentiments of humanity, have not been fulfilled. The flame of war, kindled in another hemiſphere, has communicated to Europe; but the King ſtill flattered himſelf, that this conflagration would not extend beyond its firſt bounds; and, particularly, that a nation, entirely commercial, which had made neutrality the invariable foundation of its conduct, would not have been enveloped in it: and yet, nevertheleſs, this has happened almoſt in the very moment when that power had entered into the moſt inoffenſive engagements with the King and his two northern allies. If the moſt rigid impartiality that was ever obſerved, could not exempt the King from immediately feeling the inconveniencies of war, by the conſiderable loſſes ſuſtained by his commercial ſubjects, he had much greater reaſon to apprehend the conſequences, when thoſe troubles were going to be extended; and, to conclude, when neutral commerce was about to endure new ſhackles, by the hoſtilities committed between thoſe two powers. The King could not fail to perceive theſe evils, and to wiſh ſincerely that the meaſures taken by the Empreſs of Ruſſia for extinguiſhing this new war in its beginning, might be crowned with the moſt perfect ſucceſs; but as this ſalutary work has not been brought to perfection, the King has reſolved to join with his allies, the Empreſs of Ruſſia, and the King of Denmark, in endeavouring to diſpoſe his Britannic Majeſty to liſten to the pacific ſentiments which their High Mightineſſes the States-General have already made known, by their conſenting to open a negociation for peace.

" If

1781 “ If ſuch are the inclinations of that monarch, which ought not to be doubted, it appears that a ſuſpenſion of hoſtilities would be the moſt eſſential prelude to their accompliſhment; as military operations accompanying a negociation of that nature, can only ſerve to embarraſs and retard the matter, whilſt the allied courts wiſh for nothing more than to be able to accelerate it, by every method that may tend to the advantage and ſatisfaction of the two belligerent powers.

“ In the ſincerity and rectitude which animate his Majeſty and his two allies, he cannot conceal the apprehenſion which he feels from the report of the continuation of the war, which may be productive of the moſt fatal conſequences, and may revive a variety of controverſies and diſputes. This motive, and more particularly, a deſire to prevent a further effuſion of blood, are conſiderations which ought to operate on the mind of the King of Great Britain; and in the entire confidence which his Majeſty places in thoſe circumſtances, he would receive the trueſt ſatisfaction, if, by his interpoſition and mediation, joined to that of his allies, he ſhould ſucceed in terminating the differences which have taken place between Great Britain and the United Provinces.

(Signed) “ The BARON DE NOLKEN.

On the 18th of September, Lord Stormont gave the following anſwer of the Britiſh court to the Swediſh envoy:

“ The preſervation of public tranquillity has been the firſt object of his Majeſty's care, during the whole courſe of his reign:—The commencement of that reign was ſignalized by the reſtoration of peace.

“ The King made very great ſacrifices to humanity to procure that bleſſing; and he had reaſon to flatter himſelf, that, by ſuch moderation, in the midſt of victory, he ſhould ſecure the public quiet on the moſt ſolid and durable foundations; but thoſe hopes have all proved fallacious, and thoſe foundations have been ſhaken by the ambitious politics of the court of Verſailles. This court, after having ſecretly ſupported the rebellion kindled in America, openly joined his Majeſty's rebellious ſubjects: and on account of this violation of public faith, and this direct act of hoſtility, he commenced the preſent war.

“ The conduct of the republic of Holland, through the whole courſe of the preſent war, has excited a general indignation.—This nation preſents itſelf under a very different aſpect from that of a nation merely commercial; it is a reſpectable power, for a long time bound to Great Britain by the cloſeſt alliance. The principal object of that alliance was their common ſafety, and expreſsly the mutual protection of each other againſt the ambitious deſigns of a dangerous neighbour, which their united efforts have ſo often defeated, to their reciprocal advantage, and to that of all Europe.

“ The deſertion of all theſe principles of alliance, which the King, on his part, conſtantly adhered to,—an obſtinate refuſal to fulfil the moſt ſacred engagements,—a daily infraction of the moſt ſolemn treaties,—aſſiſtance given to thoſe very enemies againſt whom he had a right to demand ſuccour,—an aſylum and protection granted in the Dutch ports to American pirates, in direct violation of the moſt clear and preciſe ſtipulations,—and, to complete the whole, a denial of juſtice and ſatisfaction for the affront offered to his Majeſty's crown, by a clandeſtine league entered into with his rebellious ſubjects:—Theſe accumulated cauſes of complaint, made it impoſſible for the King to take any other meaſures than thoſe which he has done, though with the moſt ſincere regret.—In explaining to the public the reaſons which rendered this rupture inevitable, he aſcribed the conduct of the republic to the true cauſe,—

namely,

A. D. 1781 namely, to the fatal influence of a faction, who ſacrificed the national intereſt to their own private views; but the King expreſſed, at the ſame time, the moſt earneſt deſire to bring back the republic to that ſyſtem of cloſe union, efficacious alliance, and mutual protection, which has ſo much contributed to the proſperity and glory of the two ſtates.

"When the Empreſs of Ruſſia tendered her good offices to effect a reconciliation by a ſeparate treaty of peace, the King, in expreſſing the gratitude which that freſh proof of a friendſhip which ever appeared to him ſo valuable, juſtly merited, declined expoſing her Imperial Majeſty to a fruitleſs negociation: but now, that there are ſome marks of a change in the diſpoſition of the republic,—ſome indication of a deſign to return to thoſe principles which the wiſeſt part of the Batavian nation have never deſerted, a negociation for a ſeparate peace between the King and their High Mightineſſes, may be opened with ſome hopes of ſucceſs, under the mediation of the Empreſs of Ruſſia, who was the firſt to propoſe her good offices in this ſalutary work.—If his Majeſty did not immediately avail himſelf of that offer, it was becauſe he had every reaſon to believe that the republic only ſought, at that time, to amuſe him by an inſidious negociation: but the King would think that he made but an ill return to the ſentiments which prompted thoſe firſt offers, and would be wanting in the regard ſo juſtly due to her Imperial Majeſty, and to the confidence which ſhe inſpires, if he aſſociated to her mediation any other, even that of an ally the moſt reſpectable, and for whom the King entertains the moſt ſincere friendſhip.

(Signed) "STORMONT."

Some expectations were this year formed in England that the Emperor of Germany would declare in favour of Great Britain; that he would enter into an alliance with it, and make ſuch a diverſion on the continent, as muſt compel the Houſe of Bourbon, as well as the States of Holland, to enter into a treaty of peace. Theſe expectations appear to have been totally without foundation.—His Imperial Majeſty ſeems to have had very different views, and to have been deſirous of promoting the intereſts of his ſubjects not by the arts of war, but by thoſe of peace, and by communicating to them the advantages of religious toleration.—He iſſued letters-patent, granting the free exerciſe of their religion to Proteſtants throughout the Auſtrian dominions; by a public edict he declared, that all religious houſes, monaſteries, and convents in the Auſtrian Netherlands, were exempt from all foreign eccleſiaſtical juriſdiction: and other regulations were adopted, which were calculated to reduce the number of religious houſes, and to diſcountenance all monaſtic inſtitutions.

On the 11th of June, in this year, the Emperor, who was then at Oſtend, iſſued a placart, by which he declared that town to be a free port.—He alſo eſtabliſhed ſome regulations concerning internal navigation in the Netherlands; and, ſo far from manifeſting any favourable diſpoſition towards Great Britain, he, on the 9th of October, acceded to the armed neutrality.

Although conſiderable advantages had been gained by the royal troops in America, no event had taken place from which it could be rationally expected, that the final termination of the war would be favourable to Great Britain.

On the 16th of March, a partial action took place off the Capes of Virginia, between the fleet under Admiral Arbuthnot, conſiſting of ſeven ſhips of the line, and one 50 gun ſhip, and a French ſquadron of the ſame number of ſhips of the line, and one 40 gun ſhip. Some of the ſhips, in both fleets, received conſiderable damage in the action; in which, however, the Britiſh fleet had the advantage, as the French were obliged to retire, and were ſuppoſed to be

prevented

A. D. 1781 prevented by this rencontre from carrying troops up the Cheſapeak, in order to attack General Arnold, and impede the progreſs of Lord Cornwallis.

That nobleman, after a victory obtained over General Greene at Guildford, in which little elſe was obtained but military reputation, proceeded to Wilmington, where he arrived on the 7th of April. But before he reached that place, he publiſhed a proclamation, calling upon all loyal ſubjects to ſtand forth, and take an active part in reſtoring good order and government; and declaring to all perſons who had engaged in the preſent rebellion againſt his Majeſty's authority, but who were now convinced of their error, and deſirous of returning to their duty and allegiance, that if they would ſurrender themſelves, with their arms and ammunition, at head-quarters, or to the commanding officer in the diſtrict contiguous to their reſpective places of reſidence, on or before the 20th of that month, they would be permitted to return to their homes, upon giving a military parole: that they would be protected in their perſons and properties from all kinds of violence from the Britiſh troops; and would be reſtored, as ſoon as poſſible, to all the privileges of legal and conſtitutional government. But it does not appear that any conſiderable number of the Americans were allured by theſe promiſes to give any evidences of their attachment to the royal cauſe.

On the 20th of May, Lord Cornwallis arrived at Peterſburgh, in Virginia, where he joined a body of Britiſh troops, that had been under the command of Major-General Philips, but which command, in conſequence of the death of that excellent officer, had devolved upon Brigadier-General Arnold. Before this junction, he had encountered very great inconveniencies, from the difficulty of procuring proviſions and forage, having marched ſeveral hundred miles in a country chiefly hoſtile, without one active or uſeful friend,—without intelligence, and without communication with any part of the country.

On the 26th of June, about ſix miles from Williamſburgh, Lieutenant-Colonel Simcoe repulſed with great gallantry, and equal ſucceſs, a ſuperior body of American troops: and, on the 6th of July, an action took place near the Green Springs, in Virginia, between a large reconnoitring party of the Americans, under General Wayne, and a conſiderable part of the Britiſh army. In South Carolina, an action happened on the 9th of September, near the Eataw Springs, between a large body of Britiſh troops, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Stewart, and a much ſuperior body of Americans, under General Greene:—It was an obſtinate engagement, in which the latter were defeated, with conſiderable loſs.

In the courſe of the ſame month, General Arnold was ſent on an expedition againſt New London, in Connecticut; where he deſtroyed a great part of the ſhipping, an immenſe quantity of naval ſtores, European manufactures, and Eaſt and Weſt India commodities.

Notwithſtanding the ſignal advantages that Lord Cornwallis had obtained over the Americans, his ſituation in Virginia began, by degrees, to be very critical; and the more ſo, as he did not receive thoſe reinforcements and ſupplies from Sir Henry Clinton of which he had formed certain expectations, and which were abſolutely neceſſary to the ſucceſs of his operations, but had been withheld from the ſituation of New York, which was then ſuppoſed to be in danger of an attack from the American army, under General Waſhington. That commander, having for a conſiderable time kept the garriſon of New York in perpetual alarm, ſuddenly quitted his camp at White Plains, croſſed the Delaware, and marched towards Virginia, apparently with a deſign to attack Lord Cornwallis. Sir Henry Clinton then received information that Count de Graſſe, with a large French fleet, was expected every moment in the Cheſapeak, in order to co-operate with General Waſhington. In conſequence of which, he

A. D. 1781 he conveyed his aſſurances to Lord Cornwallis, that he would either reinforce him, by every poſſible means, or make a powerful diverſion in his favour. In the mean time, Lord Cornwallis had taken poſſeſſion of the ports of York Town and Glouceſter, in Virginia, where he fortified himſelf in the beſt manner in his power.

On the 28th of Auguſt, Sir Samuel Hood, with a ſquadron from the Weſt Indies, joined that under the command of Admiral Graves, before New York; and, in conſequence of the ſituation of Lord Cornwallis, they ſailed for the Cheſapeak, where they arrived on the 5th of September, with 19 ſhips of the line; but Count de Graſſe had anchored in the bay on the 30th of Auguſt, with 24 ſail of the line. The French admiral had previouſly landed a large body of troops, which had been brought from Rhode Iſland, and who immediately marched to join the army under General Waſhington. The Britiſh and French fleets came to an action on the ſame day in which the former entered the Cheſapeak; which, though not general, yet Admiral Drake's diviſion did great miſchief to the van of the French fleet: but ſuch was the ſuperiority of the enemy, that after the two fleets had continued manœuvring in ſight of each other for five days, the Britiſh admirals returned to New York, and the Count de Graſſe remained in poſſeſſion of the Cheſapeak.

Before the news of this action had reached New York, a council of war was held there, in which it was reſolved, that 5000 men ſhould be embarked on board the King's ſhips, in order to proceed to the aſſiſtance of Lord Cornwallis. In the mean time, the moſt effectual meaſures were adopted by General Waſhington for ſurrounding the Britiſh army under Lord Cornwallis. A large body of French troops, commanded by the Count de Rochambeau, with a very conſiderable train of artillery, aſſiſted in the enterprize. The Americans amounted to near 8000 continentals, and 5000 militia. General Waſhington was inveſted with the authority of commander in chief of the combined forces of America and France.—On the 29th of September, the inveſtment of York Town was completed, and the Britiſh army quite blocked up. On the night of the 6th of October, the trenches of the enemy were opened; and from the 6th to the 14th, they kept up an inceſſant fire from heavy cannon, mortars, &c. which did great execution; when the works of the place were ſo much damaged, that it was plainly perceived they would, in a very ſhort time, become untenable.

In the midſt of theſe difficulties, the reſolution of the Britiſh troops was in the higheſt degree conſpicuous: but they were, at this time, ſo reduced by ſickneſs, as well as by the accidents of war, that they amounted to little more than 3,600 men capable of duty, including ſervants and artificers. Their means of defence, of every kind, were now reduced to a very ſmall quantity, and their ſtock of ſhells was well nigh exhauſted. In this extremity, Lord Cornwallis, deſirous to ſave all he could of ſuch a brave body of men, determined to convey them over to Glouceſter Point, on the other ſide of the river; an attempt was accordingly made, but the weather proved adverſe, and fruſtrated a deſign which was well calculated to delay the fate of this devoted army.

In conſequence of the failure of this attempt, the enemy redoubled their exertions from every quarter.—The works were at this time almoſt entirely demoliſhed, and an aſſault was every moment expected. Under theſe circumſtances, Lord Cornwallis felt the neceſſity of adopting the only certain means that remained of preſerving the lives of his brave followers from the apparent deſtruction that muſt have followed from the meditated attack of his lines by the enemy's fleet and army. The Britiſh general opened a negociation with the American commander in chief, when propoſals were made for a capitulation on the 17th of October; and, on

A. D. 1781 on the 19th, the poſts of York Town and Glouceſter were ſurrendered.—The troops were allowed the ſame honours which had been granted to the garriſon of Charleſtown.

In this manner was terminated, in America, the important and deciſive campaign of the year 1781.—It put an end to all further expectations of ſubjugating America.—The ſpirit of enterprize that had been ſo reſolutely preſerved by the Britiſh commanders and their troops ſince the commencement of hoſtilities, was now changed to the narrow limits and ſubordinate duty of preſerving the poſts yet in the poſſeſſion of the Britiſh forces.

Never had this ſpirit been exerted with more vigour than in the expedition conducted by Lord Cornwallis.—His gallant army, animated by his example, ſurmounted every difficulty that was ſurmountable, and overcame every obſtacle that it was poſſible to ſubdue.—The brave commanders and his followers were forſaken by fortune; but, notwithſtanding, it was their lot to combine glory with defeat.

On the 27th of November both Houſes of Parliament aſſembled.—In the ſpeech from the throne, his Majeſty obſerved, that the war was unhappily prolonged by the reſtleſs ambition which firſt excited our enemies to commence it, and which ſtill continued to diſappoint his earneſt deſire and diligent exertion to reſtore the public tranquillity. But, he added, that he ſhould not anſwer the truſt committed to the ſovereign of a free people, nor make a ſuitable return to their affectionate attachment to his perſon and government, if he conſented to ſacrifice, either to his own deſire of peace, or to their temporary eaſe and relief, thoſe eſſential rights and permanent intereſts, upon the maintenance and preſervation of which, the future ſtrength and ſecurity of this country muſt ever principally depend. The mention of the favourable appearance of affairs in the Eaſt Indies, and the ſafe arrival of our numerous commercial fleets, was followed by an account of the public misfortunes in America, which were ſtated as the ground for calling loudly for the firm concurrence and aſſiſtance of Parliament, and a vigorous, animated, and united exertion of the faculties and reſources of the people.—It was alſo ſtrongly recommended to Parliament to reſume the proſecution of their enquiries into the ſtate and condition of the Britiſh dominions in the Eaſt Indies.

On the uſual motion for an addreſs, a very warm and animated attack was made on the miniſtry by the ableſt orators of the oppoſition. The ill ſucceſs, the miſmanagement, and the fatal conſequences of the American war, were again made the ſubjects of attack, which were anſwered by the miniſter with his uſual addreſs and ability. No opinion, however, could be formed, from the language of the friends of government, of the meaſures to be adopted in the future conduct of the war. In order, therefore, to obtain ſome explicit declarations on this ſubject from the members of adminiſtration, on the 30th of November, when the uſual motion was made to go into a committee of ſupply, Mr. Thomas Pitt roſe to object to the Speaker's leaving the chair. This ſtep, he declared, was not taken by him to deprive the crown of the means of carrying on the affairs of government, at that alarming juncture, but to protract the proceedings of the Houſe in that buſineſs, till miniſters had given ſome pledge of their intentions to change the ſyſtem of their proceedings.

That this propoſition was conſtitutional, could not be denied: the right of refuſing any ſupply is inherent in the people, and, conſequently, in their repreſentatives; but in the exerciſe of that, as of other theoretical rights, the expediency of the meaſure was the principal object of conſideration. Previous to the Revolution, the Kings of England were poſſeſſed of a permanent revenue, and various extenſive reſources, which enabled them to ſupport the ordinary civil and military eſtabliſhments of the kingdom. When, therefore, they called on the

A. D. 1781 the people, in particular emergencies, for an extraordinary ſupply, Parliament very wiſely took advantage of the neceſſities of the Prince, to obtain ſuch conceſſions as they judged neceſſary for the ſecurity of the rights of the ſubject. But, at the time of the Revolution, the conſtitution, in this reſpect, underwent a total change, and the former practice had conſequently ceaſed. The revenue neceſſary for the defence and ſupport of the kingdom was now annually provided by Parliament; and the exerciſe therefore of the right was become extremely difficult, if not wholly impracticable.—To enquire into the exiſtence of grievances, to diſcover and adminiſter effectual remedies, would be a work of time; and the interval between the commencement of an endeavour to remove the evils complained of, and its ſucceſsful completion, would be filled up by the annihilation of our fleets and armies. Equal miſchief would alſo enſue, if the mode of carrying on the war, or the operations of the enſuing campaign were to be diſcloſed, as the conditions of granting the ſupplies. The ſituation of the country was certainly, at this time, very critical and alarming, and ſome change of meaſures was abſolutely neceſſary; but theſe circumſtances ſeemed to demand, in a particular manner, the moſt powerful and united exertions of Parliament. The eyes, not only of the nation, but of its enemies, were fixed upon them; and much of the ſpirit and exertions of both would naturally depend on the reſult of their deliberations.—Theſe opinions appeared to be thoſe of a great majority of the Houſe; as the motion for going into a committee of ſupply, was carried, on a diviſion, by 172, againſt 77.

A motion had been made during the courſe of the laſt ſeſſion, for an enquiry into the conduct of the captors of the iſland of St. Euſtatius, which, as we have already obſerved, was then negatived, chiefly on account of the abſence of the two commanders, who were ſo deeply intereſted in the ſubject. Both theſe gentlemen being, at this time, attendant on their duty in Parliament, Mr. Burke, purſuant to the previous notice which he had given, moved, on the 4th of December, "That the Houſe reſolve itſelf into a committee of the whole Houſe, in order to enquire into the confiſcation of the effects, wares, and merchandize, belonging to his Majeſty's new ſubjects on the iſland of St. Euſtatius; and further to enquire into the ſale, diſtribution, and mode of conveyance of a great part of the ſaid effects, wares, and merchandize, to the iſlands belonging to France, and to other parts of the dominions belonging to his Majeſty's enemies."

The general charges laid againſt Admiral Rodney and General Vaughan were as follows:—That on the ſurrender of the iſland at diſcretion, it became an authorized ſcene of the moſt cruel violence and depredation: that a general confiſcation of property took place; every warehouſe was locked up; every inhabitant was compelled to give an account of his plate, jewels, and ready money; and the books of all the merchants were ſeized, and their wares and goods thrown into one common maſs: that a general proſcription of the inhabitants took place, by which they were obliged, without exception, Engliſh, Dutch, Jews, French, and Americans, to quit the iſland.—That the confiſcation of property being ſettled, and the inhabitants removed, the ſale of their goods next followed: that a proclamation was iſſued, offering free ingreſs and regreſs to every purchaſer, ſecurity that his money ſhould not be taken from him, and full permiſſion to tranſport to any place he choſe, whatever merchandize he ſhould purchaſe: that 17 veſſels, principally French, were accordingly freighted with ſtores, and other articles, purchaſed 50 per cent. under their intrinſic value, for the ſervice of our enemies; and leſt they ſhould become captures to the Britiſh privateers, which were hovering round the iſland, and waiting for the return of the purchaſers, they ſailed under the convoy of an Eng-

1781 liſh ſhip of war: that three months were ſpent by the Britiſh commanders in diſpoſing of and ſecuring the plunder of St. Euſtatius; in conſequence of which, as the ſuperiority of the Britiſh fleet was at that time very decided in that part of the world, a very favourable opportunity was loſt of recovering ſome of our former Weſt Indian poſſeſſions; and that from the ſame cauſe originated the weakneſs of the detachment ſent under the command of Admiral Hood to prevent the junction of the French fleet in the Weſt Indies with that which arrived with Count de Graſſe from Europe.—The loſs of Tobago, and the unfortunate concluſion of the campaign in the Cheſapeak, were alſo attributed to the ſame origin.

In anſwer to theſe very heavy and pointed charges, Sir George Rodney offered a defence to the following purport:—He ſaid, that when he appeared before the iſland of St. Euſtatius, it was for the purpoſe of cutting off ſupplies from the enemy, and with the fixed reſolution not to grant any terms to the inhabitants. The Dutch, though nominally the friends of this country, had, during the courſe of his command in the Weſt Indies, been the moſt active friends of our enemies; and to puniſh and check both, nothing had appeared more effectual than the reduction of an iſland, the inhabitants of which were animated with a rooted averſion to us. Among thoſe inhabitants were many, who, while they called themſelves Engliſhmen, were not aſhamed to diſgrace themſelves and their country, by aſſiſting her enemies with the means to injure her: ſuch people had deſerved no favour, and to them he had reſolved to ſhew none. That St. Euſtatius had been a mart for our enemies, in preference to us, was manifeſt from this circumſtance; that, ſome weeks before the capture of the iſland, an application had been made to the chief officers and inhabitants, to treat with them about the purchaſe of ſuch materials as were requiſite for the reparation and equipment of the Engliſh fleet. Their anſwer was, that as no articles of this nature were then among their ſtores, they could not in the leaſt aſſiſt us.—That this was a falſe pretence, was very evident; as, on the ſurrender of the iſland, ſuch great quantities of naval ſtores were found within the warehouſes, &c. as could not have been heaped together in ſo ſhort a ſpace of time. As to the outrages which it was aſſerted had been committed at St. Euſtatius, he could declare, that, ſo far from being guilty of an abuſe of power, he had never failed to redreſs, upon the firſt complaint, all irregularities and improprieties, without waiting to examine whether they were frivolous or important. But when he found that the natives of this kingdom, forgetful of the allegiance to their King, and criminally regardleſs of the ties which ſhould have bound them to their country, had ſunk the reputable character of an Engliſh merchant into the diſgraceful occupation of a ſelfiſh trader, and were unprincipled aſſociates with the Dutch, in traffic with thoſe engaged in the American rebellion, he ſeized and ſent them home, to meet the juſtice of the laws which they had ſo baſely offended. With regard to inſinuations which had been thrown out, of his having been actuated by mercenary views, the fact was, that when he ſeized on all the property on the iſland of St. Euſtatius, it was not for his own uſe: he thought, at the time, that it would all belong to the King, and that it was his duty to ſee the moſt made of it, in order to carry it into the public treaſury. He had not wiſhed for a ſhilling of it, nor had any other idea, at the time, but that the whole belonged, of right, to his country: he had written to this effect to the firſt lord of the treaſury; and, therefore, in all he had done for the preſervation of the property at St. Euſtatius, it was for his country, and not for himſelf, that he had been acting.—It was pretended that he had permitted the ſtores and proviſions to be conveyed to the enemy, directly, or circuitouſly through the neutral iſlands: but this was the very reverſe of the fact; as he had given orders that none of the ſtores or pro-

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A. D. 1781 viſions ſhould be ſold, but ſent to his Majeſty's yard at Antigua. So very ſtrict had he been in this reſpect, that he was not ſatisfied with examining the clearance of every ſhip which went out, he had alſo cauſed her to anchor under his ſtern, and had her examined by commiſſioned officers; and, if ſhe had more proviſions on board than were neceſſary for the voyage, they were always taken out. As to the charge brought againſt him, that he had remained inactive for three months at St. Euſtatius, his anſwer was, that matters of the higheſt conſequence had made his preſence abſolutely requiſite; and though he had ſtaid no inconſiderable length of time upon the iſland, he took care to keep the fleet in active ſervice, and planned ſuch enterprizes as he imagined would have proved of infinite advantage to Great Britain. One of theſe was an expedition againſt Surinam, and another againſt Curaſſoa; but when the ſquadrons for this purpoſe were on the point of ſailing, he received intelligence that a numerous fleet of French merchantmen, under convoy of 12 ſhips of the line, were obſerved to be ſteering towards Martinico. This circumſtance immediately determined him to relinquiſh all thoughts of attacking two ſettlements, which, though of great value and importance, were of leſs conſequence than the advantages which muſt have followed the ſucceſs of intercepting the French convoy, and preventing the junction between their fleet, then on its courſe from Europe, and their naval armament then at anchor in Fort Royal Bay. For theſe purpoſes, he inſtantly diſpatched a powerful ſquadron to Martinico, having directed that they ſhould blockade the whole iſland, &c. The conduct of this enterprize was committed to Sir Samuel Hood, an officer of known ſkill and intrepidity, and the ſubſequent miſcarriage of the expedition would not juſtify the leaſt unpleaſant reflection on that brave commander, who, as far as unexpected incidents permitted, had done his duty to the utmoſt. With reſpect to Tobago, the Admiral added, that the loſs of the iſland was not his fault; as even the guns that he had ſent the year before for its defence had never been mounted. As to the charge which laid the unſucceſsful concluſion of the campaign in the Cheſapeak to his ill-conduct, he obſerved, that conſidering the great convoy which De Graſſe had under his charge, the ſeaſon of the year, and the crazy ſtate of many of his ſhips, it was not to be expected or ſuppoſed, but that he would ſend the greater part of his fleet along with the merchantmen to France; and it was fairly to be preſumed, that he would have only retained thoſe which were in condition to undergo the American ſervice: but, independent of theſe circumſtances, Admiral Hood's force was equal to its object, which was all a commander in chief had to conſider; for if Admiral Graves had kept his ſquadron entire, and had met Admiral Hood, as was expected, at the Cheſapeak, they would not only have been in poſſeſſion before De Graſſe's arrival there, but they would have encountered him with a ſufficient force, aided by the great advantages which ſuperior ſituation would have afforded them. But if the expreſſes which were ſent to New York, to give notice of the motions of Monſieur de Graſſe, or of Admiral Hood's deſtination to the Cheſapeak, were taken by the enemy or otherwiſe detained, it was a misfortune to be regretted, but which could not be foreſeen or prevented.

Such was the ſubſtance of Sir George Rodney's defence, who was followed on nearly the ſame ground by Major General Vaughan. That officer alſo denied, in the moſt ſolemn manner, his having any ſhare or concern in the depredations and outrages alleged to have been committed. That ſo far from having authorized any degree of violence or cruelty, he liſtened, with the moſt rigid impartiality, to all complaints whatever, and endeavoured to give the aggrieved parties all the redreſs in his power. He declared, that he had not gained one ſingle ſhilling, directly or indirectly, in conſequence of the proceedings at St. Euſtatius. One of

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1781 the reaſons for locking up the warehouſes in that iſland was, he ſaid, to prevent plundering, from which the troops were with difficulty reſtrained. Fire too, he added, was to be feared in a place, where many diſaffected people lived, and who thought themſelves injured by the confiſcation of their property for treaſon. As to the Jews, he obſerved, it was evident they could not have been ſo ill treated as had been repreſented, becauſe he had received an addreſs, ſigned by the rulers and warden of that people, in which they expreſſed their gratitude for the clemency and goodneſs which he had exerciſed towards them. A large majority of the Houſe of Commons was ſatisfied with the juſtification offered by the captors of St. Euſtatius, and Mr. Burke's motion for the propoſed enquiry, was negatived upon a diviſion, by a majority of 163 to 89.

In this buſineſs the commanders certainly acted for the advantage of their country, according to the policy of war. Under the influence of a patriot and profeſſional zeal they conſidered the general objects of the ſervice, without ſufficiently adverting to the rights of individuals: they either forgot, or were not informed, that, in ſome of their proceedings, they were violating a known law of Great Britain. That the iſland of St. Euſtatius may be truly ſaid to have fed the American rebellion, from the convenient, ample and univerſal ſupply of its market,—that the inhabitants of it had allied themſelves, in principle and zeal, with the enemies of Great Britain,—and that among them were to be found Britiſh ſubjects, or their agents, who ſuffered the baſer gains of trade to extinguiſh in their breaſts the patriotiſm of commerce, is of incontrovertible notoriety: but St. Euſtatius had been a neutral iſland, as it were, to the moment of its capture; and however wrong or injurious the conduct of ſuch Britiſh merchants might ſeem to a commander of a fleet or army, who ſaw, and had, perhaps, experienced the evils ariſing from it, the former, in this particular inſtance, appear to have acted under the protection of that law which is ſuperior to any naval or military juriſdiction, and which will juſtify adequate claims of reparation from thoſe who have improperly exerciſed ſuch extra-judicial authority. Such claims were actually made, and the ſituation of the different parties will appear from the following memorial, which, ſome time ſubſequent to this period, was preſented to his Majeſty by Lord Rodney.

" That your Majeſty having been pleaſed by your royal proclamation of the 20th of December, 1780, to order hoſtilities to be commenced againſt the Dutch, your memorialiſt, on the 28th of January following, being then at Barbadoes, received your Majeſty's command for ſubduing the power of the Dutch in the Weſt India ſettlements, and the reduction of St. Euſtatius; which, with the greateſt alacrity and expedition, he prepared to pay obedience to, and accordingly the fleet under his command, with the land forces commanded by Major General Vaughan on board, ſailed for St. Euſtatius, and on the 3d of February reduced that rich and valuable iſland, with all its dependencies, naval and military ſtores, effects and property to a very conſiderable amount to your Majeſty's government.

" It would be impoſſible for your memorialiſt to deſcribe the enormities which were practiſed in that iſland, under pretence of its being a neutral port; your Majeſty's open and avowed enemies were ſupplied with naval and military ſtores, cordage, ammunition, proviſions, and all other commodities, which the laws of nations univerſally prohibit neutral powers from providing for either of the contending parties. The rebellion of your Majeſty's American ſubjects was there fomented and encouraged, and Engliſh merchants diſhonoured themſelves by becoming Dutch burghers, and leaguing with them in a conduct which proved ruinous to their country, and which will ever be an indelible ſtain upon thoſe who were concerned in

ſuch

A. D. 1781 ſuch treaſonable tranſactions; and whatever may be the fate of thoſe who were the inſtruments of Providence in the puniſhment of ſuch enormities, poſterity will rejoice to find ſo much villainy did not paſs unpuniſhed.

"Your Majeſty's memorialiſt further humbly repreſents, that when by his ſecret intelligence, the intercepting letters, and getting poſſeſſion of books and papers, he diſcovered the nature of the traffic and correſpondence carried on by the inhabitants of St. Euſtatius, he ſhould not have thought he had diſcharged the duty he owed your Majeſty and the ſtate, had he not made a ſeizure of every kind of property, except ſuch as could be ſhewn to be legally imported directly from Great Britain: under this impreſſion, your memorialiſt thought that men guilty of ſuch perfidy and treaſon had no right to be treated as reſpectable people: they were allowed no terms,—they deſerved none;—their perſons were made priſoners of war,—their property forfeited to your Majeſty; and their magazines, filled with proviſions, naval and other ſtores, intended for the uſe of your Majeſty's enemies and rebellious ſubjects, were ſeized: but your memorialiſt uſed his beſt endeavours to diſcriminate between the innocent and guilty; to the latter he ſhewed no favour, becauſe he thought they deſerved none, though the former were treated with all the reſpect due to innocence; and to them their property was ordered to be returned, as will moſt evidently appear from the orders given by your memorialiſt to the ſeveral agents. He conſidered it as the duty of a Britiſh Admiral implicitly to obey the commands of his ſovereign, and to do juſtice to his country. He felt that his ſovereign and his country were inſulted by the Dutch harbouring ſuch traitors,—that her juſtice was eluded, and her laws trampled upon by her treacherous ſubjects, and he thought it his duty to vindicate their honour and puniſh the *guilty*; and he has the heartfelt ſatisfaction to reflect, that theſe motives alone actuated his conduct, and that ſelf-intereſt had no influence in the direction of his actions. He conſidered, that the produce of the capture ought to go to the public revenue of his country,—he had no claim to any part of it,—nor did he deſire it: he thought himſelf happy, and ſufficiently rewarded, in having executed effectually your Majeſty's commands, and in having been the humble means of bringing thoſe traitors to puniſhment for the treaſon they had committed againſt your Majeſty, and the injuries they had done their country.

"Your memorialiſt further humbly repreſents to your Majeſty, that his conduct was not only thus ſanctioned by his own feelings, but he had alſo the ſatisfaction of receiving a letter from Lord George Germaine, then one of your Majeſty's principal Secretaries of State, ſignifying your Majeſty's royal and moſt gracious approbation of his conduct, and of your Majeſty's moſt generous gift of all the property of the enemy, captured in thoſe iſlands, to your navy and army, for their ſole uſe and benefit; though previous to your Majeſty's moſt royal and bountiful gift, moſt of the produce of the Weſt Indies and America, found at St. Euſtatius, was ſhipped on board the Dutch ſhips taken in the road of St. Euſtatius, and ſent under convoy to England, to abide your Majeſty's pleaſure; but unfortunately moſt of thoſe ſhips were taken by a French ſquadron in the mouth of the Britiſh Channel.

"Your memorialiſt further begs moſt humbly to repreſent to your Majeſty, that after theſe undoubted marks of your royal approbation of his conduct, it was with aſtoniſhment and inexpreſſible concern he learnt, that innumerable actions were commenced againſt him for doing his duty; but his aſtoniſhment was greatly increaſed indeed, when he found thoſe claims were attended to with ſucceſs, and that your Majeſty's law officers were not ordered to protect or defend him; it is therefore ſufficient to ſtate generally to your Majeſty, that claims have been

1781 advanced againſt your memorialiſt and the captors, to the amount of 300,000l. ſeveral of which have been allowed, and the reſt liable to be decided agreeable to the ſame precedent.—The ſentence of the Lords Commiſſioners of Appeal having decreed reſtitution to the claimants, not to the amount of the ſales, but according to the full original value or prime coſt, with charges, freight, and inſurance, the conſequences of ſuch decrees are, that the reſtitution awarded, is near three-fourths more than the value received, and the captors thereby made liable to pay many thouſand pounds more than the capture.

"Your memorialiſt further humbly repreſents to your Majeſty, that from his having zealouſly endeavoured to diſcharge his duty to your Majeſty and his country, his private fortune is attacked in order to comply with the ſentence obtained againſt him and the captors, and the property which your Majeſty was graciouſly pleaſed to beſtow on him, as a reward for his long and faithful ſervices, and for the ſupport of thoſe honours your Majeſty has been graciouſly pleaſed to confer on him, is liable to be wreſted from him by thoſe very men, whoſe treaſonable practices he once had the means of proving in the face of his country: and your memorialiſt, who, on the concluſion of the war, was in hopes, by the bounty of your Majeſty, to have been enabled to ſpend the latter end of his life in peace, affluence and dignity, has, ever ſince the year 1781, been harraſſed by conſtant litigations, which has not only filled his mind with perpetual ſolicitude, but ruined his health and impaired his conſtitution; and though, in conſequence of your Majeſty's moſt gracious and generous gift of the property captured at St. Euſtatius, your memorialiſt had formed plans and entered into conſiderable engagements for the ſettlement of his fortune, and the advantageous eſtabliſhment of his family, yet the late deciſions againſt him, and thoſe which may ſhortly follow, (unleſs prevented) have entirely put an end to ſuch pleaſing proſpects; his engagements are forfeited, and his views fruſtrated; theſe are conſequences which your Majeſty cannot fail to perceive muſt be prejudicial to your memorialiſt in the higheſt degree, and which may poſſibly end in the ruin of himſelf and family.

"In ſuch a ſituation, your memorialiſt would be totally deſtitute of hope, was it not that he has the firmeſt reliance upon the goodneſs, juſtice and magnanimity of your Majeſty; fully convinced, that a man who has to the utmoſt of his ability and power, during a long and active life, endeavoured to forward your Majeſty's and the general intereſts of his country,—who has at all times chearfully complied with the orders of his ſovereign, and executed them in ſuch a manner as to receive his royal approbation, will ever meet that ſupport, encouragement, and relief from your Majeſty, which his ſituation may lay him under the neceſſity of ſoliciting from your royal goodneſs.

"Your memorialiſt therefore, with due ſubmiſſion, proſtrates himſelf at your royal feet, and beſeeches your Majeſty will be pleaſed to take his caſe into your conſideration, and afford him ſuch protection and relief, as muſt prevent his falling a ſacrifice, for having executed that duty he owed the beſt of Kings and his injured country.

"(Signed,) RODNEY."

On the 12th of December, a very important motion was made in Parliament by Sir James Lowther, which occaſioned a very long and intereſting debate. That gentleman's motion was, "That it ſhould be reſolved by that Houſe, that the war carried on againſt the colonies and plantations of North America had been ineffectual to the purpoſes for which it was undertaken, of affording protection to his Majeſty's loyal ſubjects there, and of defeating the hoſtile intentions of our confederated enemies; and that it was alſo the opinion of that Houſe, that all

1781 all further attempts to reduce the Americans to obedience, by force, would be ineffectual, and muſt be injurious to this country, by weakening her powers to reſiſt her ancient and confederated enemies." This motion was rejected by a majority of 220 to 179. The miniſter, however, had little reaſon to exult in his ſucceſs, as it was ſufficiently apparent, from the numbers who voted againſt adminiſtration, that the uninfluenced ſenſe of that Houſe was clearly and deciſively againſt any further proſecution of the American war. On the 20th of the ſame month, the Houſe was adjourned to the 22d of January, 1782.

The French having failed this year in their hoſtile deſigns in the Channel, were reſolved to give the fulleſt ſupport to thoſe which were proſecuting elſewhere. Large reinforcements of troops and great quantities of proviſions, and naval and military ſtores, were with all diligence prepared for the various parts of the world where the war was waging. The convoy was ſo numerous, and of ſuch value and importance, that M. de Guichen was employed to accompany it till out of danger of being intercepted, with twenty of the largeſt ſhips of the line that could be provided. Theſe preparations, however, did not eſcape the vigilance of the Britiſh miniſtry. A ſtrong ſquadron was diſpatched under Admiral Kempenfelt, to cut off this convoy, the arrival of which at the different places of its deſtination, would have proved highly injurious to the Britiſh intereſts in thoſe parts. He fell in with it on the 12th of December, and the tranſports having been parted from the men of war by a violent ſtorm, he was enabled to capture above 20 of them;—the want of frigates prevented the taking of many more. Moſt of the remaining part of the convoy was, in conſequence, diſperſed, and obliged to put back. Admiral Kempenfelt, on reconnoitring the force of the enemy, found it ſo ſuperior to his own, as he had but 12 ſhips of the line, that he very wiſely declined the conteſt and withdrew into port. The value of the prizes he had taken was very conſiderable: they were laden with all kinds of articles requiſite for the land and ſea ſervice, and with all manner of proviſions and neceſſaries. Near 2000 ſoldiers and ſailors were alſo made priſoners. But notwithſtanding the greatneſs of the diſappointment to France by the loſs of ſuch a material part of this convoy, the facility with which, as it was aſſerted, the whole might have been captured, and the heavy blow that would thereby have been given to the enemy, occaſioned no ſmall degree of public diſcontent. Had a ſufficient ſtrength been employed, a victory of the moſt decided conſequence might have been gained; and, inſtead of part of the convoy, the whole would, probably, have been taken, together with the fleet by which it was accompanied.

We have already related, that the ſpirited exertions of the volunteer aſſociations of Ireland, had occaſioned a juſt attention to be paid to the grievances of that kingdom, that ſome liberal laws in favour of the Iriſh trade and commerce were paſſed by the Parliament of Great Britain, and that the people of Ireland, after having armed for the defence of their country againſt foreign enemies, wiſely reſolved to deliver themſelves from domeſtic evils, and from every ſpecies of miniſterial oppreſſion, and to obtain ſome important conſtitutional reformations. They even determined to aſſert the independence of their own Parliament on that of Great Britain; and they repeatedly declared, in public meetings, that no Parliament, but the Parliament of Ireland, was competent to make laws for the government of that kingdom.

On the 13th of November, in this year, Mr. Grattan moved for leave to bring in a bill to explain, amend, and limit the mutiny act; but this motion was rejected by a great majority: in ſhort, it appeared that the Iriſh Parliament was, ſomehow or other, by no means ſo diſpoſed to promote the conſtitutional reformations now in agitation, as the people at large. But in conſequence of the ardor by which the Iriſh nation was actuated, to obtain ſome conſtitu-

A. D. 1781 tional reformation, in the courſe of this year, in various county meetings, and meetings of their armed aſſociations, the ſupremacy of the Britiſh Parliament was denied in public reſolutions. They alſo inſtructed their repreſentatives to exert their utmoſt efforts, for the promotion of every meaſure that might tend to eſtabliſh the independence and excluſive competency of their own legiſlature; to labour to reſtore to the Lords and Commons of Ireland their ancient right of legiſlation, by a final extinction of the unconſtitutional powers of the Privy Council, as introduced by Poynings law; to give their ſtrenuous ſupport to an habeas corpus act; to provide for the impartial adminiſtration of juſtice, by ſecuring the independence of the judges; to aboliſh all ſuch places and penſions as neither rewarded public virtue, nor promoted public ſervice; and to uſe their beſt endeavours to obtain a limited mutiny bill, inſtead of the preſent. The zeal and activity with which their aſſociations continued to arm and exerciſe themſelves, evinced alſo their determination to aſſert their rights, and enforce their claims, if it ſhould be neceſſary, by a mode of application that ſhould not be diſregarded.

In the beginning of this year, a financial novelty appeared, whoſe object, execution and conſequence claim ſome degree of attention from us. This was a work entitled, A Treatiſe on the Adminiſtration of the Finances of France, written by Monſieur Necker, Director General, which was laid before the King and cauſed to be printed for the public inſpection. In the memorial which he addreſſed to the French monarch on this occaſion, Mr. Necker obſerved, that he had been induced to render to his Majeſty a public account of the ſucceſs of his labours, and of the actual ſtate of the French finances, by the conſideration, that the notoriety and authenticity of ſuch an account might tend greatly to promote the welfare of his Majeſty's affairs. Such a ſtatement of accounts, might alſo put every perſon who was concerned in his Majeſty's councils, in a ſituation to ſtudy and to attend to the ſtate of the finances; a ſpecies of knowledge important in itſelf, and having either connection with or relation to all deliberations of moment. He takes notice, that a principal cauſe of the great credit of England was the public notoriety to which the ſtate of her finances was ſubmitted: this account was every year preſented to Parliament, and afterwards printed; and the money lenders, being thus regularly made acquainted with the proportion maintained between the receipts and diſburſements, were not rendered uneaſy by thoſe chimerical ſuſpicions and fears, which were the inſeparable concomitants of a more diſguiſed conduct. On the contrary, in France the ſtate of the finances had conſtantly been made a matter of myſtery; or, if it was mentioned, it was in the preambles of edicts, and always at the moment when there was occaſion to borrow. It was, therefore, a matter of great moment to fix the public confidence on a more ſolid baſis. The ſovereign of ſuch a kingdom as France, might always, at his pleaſure, maintain the balance between his ordinary expences and revenues. The diminution of the former, ever ſeconded by the public wiſh, was in his own hands; and, when circumſtances required it, the augmentation of impoſts was ſubmitted to his power. But the moſt dangerous, as well as the moſt unjuſt of all reſources, was that of ſeeking temporary aids in a blind confidence, and engaging for loans, without having, either by an augmentation of the revenue, or by a retrenchment of expences, provided for the intereſts. Such an adminiſtration, by procraſtinating the moment of embarraſſment, only encreaſed the evil, and made further advances in undermining the precipice; whilſt a different conduct, more ſimple and more liberal, would multiply the reſources of the ſovereign, and perpetually reſtrain him from every ſpecies of injuſtice.

Mr.

A. D. 1781 Mr. Necker divided his account of the French finances into three parts. The firſt concerning the actual ſtate of the finances, and all the operations which related to the Royal Treaſury, and to public credit; the ſecond was intended to unfold the operations which had united important meaſures of œconomy with great advantages in government; and in the third, he gives an account of ſome diſpoſitions and regulations which had lately taken place, and which had for their object the general welfare of the people and the welfare of the ſtate. In the latter part of this work, Mr. Necker expreſſes his regret, in very ſtrong terms, that, in conſequence of the commencement of the war, the introduction of reformations, and the promotion of œconomy, had not been productive of all thoſe beneficial effects to the people, which they might have received from them, if peace had been continued. Had no war broken out, many of the burthens might have been lightened, their taxes might have been reduced, the national debt leſſened, canals opened, trade promoted and extended, new and uſeful eſtabliſhments founded in the kingdom, and various bleſſings communicated to the nation.

This ſplendid theory, however, has not anſwered to the views of the writer, or the expectations of the people for whoſe uſe, inſtruction, and, as ſome have thought, for whoſe deception it was written. The boaſted reſources of France have not yet diſcovered themſelves; nor have the efforts of public œconomy given the promiſed credit or plenty to the Exchequer of that kingdom. Experience refuſes to fulfil the predictions of Mr. Necker. While the credit of France is feeble and languiſhing, that of Great Britain is acquiring new energy, and embracing new objects.

The preſent ſtate of Geneva, as it produced ſome commercial projects which will be hereafter ſtated in this work, cannot be paſſed by without ſome particular notice. That republic, which had long enjoyed a great degree of tranquillity and happineſs, was now unfortunately involved in much civil diſcord, in conſequence of very violent diſputes of the inhabitants, which had taken place between the ariſtocratical and democratical parties. Some of the magiſtrates and leading men of the republic, appeared much inclined to encroach upon the liberties of the common people, who, on their part, diſcovered a determined reſolution to oppoſe every attempt of this kind. Theſe diſputes occaſioned ſome interference of the cantons of Zurich and Bern, as well as of the court of France; but this interpoſition ſerved only to increaſe the domeſtic troubles of the republic. It was the ariſtocratical party that appears to have been moſt favoured by the court of France.

In the courſe of this year, a letter was ſent to the Magnificoes of Geneva, by M. de Vergennes, in the name of the King of France, expreſſing his diſſatisfaction that the cantons of Zurich and Bern were not diſpoſed to concur with him in ſentiment, either on the neceſſity of a ſpeedy pacification, or the means of procuring it. His Majeſty, therefore, declared, that he ſhould leave to the cantons of Zurich and Bern the care of reſtoring peace to the republic of Geneva; at the ſame time, cautioning thoſe cantons, not to conſent to any reſolution, which might deprave the nature of the government of Geneva, by turning it into a confuſed democracy. This would be an innovation, that his Majeſty was intereſted in preventing. The French monarch alſo acquainted them, that he would take all the orders of the ſtate of Geneva under his protection; and that if any one ſhould attempt any thing againſt the life or liberty of any inhabitant of the republic, and the government ſhould fail to employ the neceſſary means to puniſh ſuch offender, the King would take that care upon himſelf; as alſo of reſtoring among them good order, ſpeedily, and by all means which his power could command. Theſe

1781 royal menaces, joined to the internal diſturbances of the Republic, could not but convey very alarming apprehenſions to the friends of its freedom and independence.

A general meeting of the Proprietors of Bank Stock was held at the Bank, in the month of September, to determine by ballot if it was the ſenſe of the proprietors to increaſe their dividend one-half per cent. which was carried, and raiſed the dividend to ſix per cent. On the day following, the proprietors held another general meeting, to confirm the ballot of the preceding day, and alſo to make a call of eight per cent. on the capital ſtock of the company, which was agreed to, and to be paid in as follows:

1 Per cent. on the nineteenth of October.
2 Per cent. on the twentieth of December.
2 Per cent. on the ſeventeenth of January.
3 Per cent. on the fifteenth of February.
—
8 Per cent. which made an increaſe to their capital ſtock of — 862,400
— Former capital, — 10,780,000

Encreaſed capital ſtock, 11,642,400

The following is a correct account of the number of houſes in certain towns, laid before the Houſe of Commons, in this year, by the tax office.

Towns.	*Houſes.*	*Towns.*	*Houſes.*
Exeter,	1,474	Newcaſtle,	2,219
Plymouth,	1,510	Briſtol,	3,247
York,	2,285	Bath,	1,173
Hull,	1,370	Ipſwich,	1,244
Sheffield,	2,022	Birmingham,	2,291
Liverpool,	3,974	Cambridge,	1,925
Mancheſter,	2,519	Oxford,	2,316
Norwich,	2,302	Dover,	1,193
Lynn,	662	Nottingham,	1,533
Yarmouth,	682	Northampton,	706
Shrewſbury,	904		

The following report of the late Board of Trade is ably drawn up, and conveys much information relative to the linen manufacture. From its date it ſhould have found a place under the preceding year; but we ſhould not think ourſelves juſtified in with-holding it merely on that account.

To the RIGHT HONOURABLE the LORDS of the COMMITTEE of COUNCIL appointed to conſider the IRISH BILLS.

My Lords,

" Your lordſhips having been pleaſed, by your order of the 6th inſtant, to refer to us a bill, lately tranſmitted from Ireland, intitled, " An Act for granting Bounties on the Export of the Linen and Hempen Manufactures of this Kingdom, therein enumerated; and for repealing the Bounties on Flax Seed imported, and for encouraging the Growth thereof in this Kingdom;" and having required us to report, how far the proviſions of the ſaid bill may af-

A. D. 1781 fect the linen trade of this kingdom, we forthwith proceeded to take the ſame into our conſideration accordingly.

" Finding, however, that it would be neceſſary to ſeek for much information, not contained in any papers tranſmitted to us, we deſired the attendance of ſeveral reſpectable merchants intereſted in the general export trade, and in the linen manufactures of Mancheſter and Scotland, as alſo of ſome principal factors concerned in the imports and exports of Iriſh linens, and of other perſons converſant in the extenſive ſubject before us. In the reſult, we now beg leave to report to your lordſhips,

" That thoſe clauſes in the bill which repeal certain bounties now payable on imported flax ſeed or linſeed, and apply the average annual amount thereof to encourage the growth of flax ſeed and hemp ſeed in Ireland, cannot affect the intereſts of the linen trade of this kingdom, and are, ſo far as bounties may in any caſe be expedient, wiſely and providently applied by theſe new proviſions, to promote the intereſt of the Iriſh linen trade.

" The value of flax ſeed annually imported into Ireland was, in 1773, eſtimated at from 60,000l. to 80,000l. excluſive of this great expence, it is the evident intereſt of that kingdom to give every reaſonable encouragement to the internal produce of materials on which her ſtaple manufacture depends, and to which her ſoil and climate are peculiarly ſuitable; and the truſting to her foreign importation for the ſupply of flax ſeed, is more eſpecially ineligible, as the ſeed ſo imported is ſaid not to be ſo good and ſo certain, as that which is raiſed by the Iriſh culture.

" It is conſiſtent with the ſame reaſoning, and equally unconnected with any ſpecial intereſts of our linen trade, that the bill impoſes a duty of 6d. per gallon on imported linſeed oil, which is chiefly imported from Holland, and applies the produce in aid of the new bounty abovementioned. And here we ſhall take occaſion to obſerve, that ſuch farther duties as are impoſed by the bill for the farther purpoſes therein ſpecified, cannot come within the import of your lordſhips general queſtion reſpecting our linen trade; for they conſiſt in an additional charge of five per cent. on the produce of all impoſt, exciſe, and cuſtoms inwards, except on tobacco, ſugar, hops, and the produce of the Britiſh colonies in America, the Weſt Indies, or the ſettlements in Africa, whereon any duties may be impoſed, or altered, during the preſent ſeſſion of Parliament, and except alſo on any Britiſh hops or ſugars.

" We preſume, then, that we have done right in confining our attention and inquiries to the remaining proviſions of the bill, by which bounties are given to certain ſpecies of Iriſh linens exported to Africa, America, Spain, Portugal, Gibraltar, and Minorca; and alſo to Iriſh made ſail cloth exported to any place except Great Britain.

" In examining theſe bounties, we found them in moſt reſpects ſimilar to the bounties granted in Great Britain upon the exportation of Britiſh or Iriſh linens. There is ſome ſmall difference with regard to linens of 5d. per yard, which are ſo ſtated in the Iriſh bill, in order to anſwer ours of 5d. Engliſh money, inſtead of being put at 5d. $\frac{5}{12}$, the proportion in Iriſh money; in conſequence of which, the bounty given in Ireland is, in a ſlight degree, higher than it is in Great Britain. There is, however, a difference much more material in the bounty on ſail cloth, which, in the Iriſh bill, at 6½d. upon every three ells, although in England it is only 1d. per ell. In other particulars we do not obſerve any difference, except in the denomination of money, for the purpoſe of equalizing the ſeveral bounties, reſpectively, to the proportions of what are given in this kingdom.

" In

A. D. 1781 "In taking a review of the laſt-mentioned bounties, which, on the average, are about 12 per cent. in favour of low-priced linens exported, it may not be immaterial to ſtate to your lordſhips the manner in which the Britiſh bounties have operated in favour of the Iriſh manufacture. The firſt bounties on linen exported took place in 1743, and the export from England, of Iriſh linen, intitled to bounty, was,

	Yards.
In 1743,	40,907
1753,	1,039,967
1763,	2,588,564
1773,	2,832,246

"This increaſe has been aided alſo by accumulated duties on the import of foreign linens into this kingdom, notwithſtanding that ſuch duties are ſaid to have operated to the prejudice of our own woollen trade, by inducing foreign powers to lay reciprocal burdens and reſtrictions on our woollen manufactures. The conſequence, however, has been, with reſpect to the Iriſh ſtaple, that the general import of Iriſh linens has alſo been increaſed very greatly; for, the Iriſh linens imported into London, and the out-ports, were,

	Yards.
In 1743,	6,418,375
1773,	17,876,617
Increaſe,	11,458,242

"That this may be attributed to the ſyſtem of bounties and duties, rather than the general increaſe of our trade, will ſufficiently appear from the proportionable decreaſe in the import and export of foreign linens, compared at the ſame periods.

"Foreign linens imported into London and the out-ports, were,

	Ells.
In 1743,	18,584,503
1773,	8,954,649
Decreaſe,	9,629,854

"Foreign linens exported from London and the out-ports, were,

	Ells.
In 1743,	9,894,837
1773,	4,385,276
Decreaſe,	5,509,561

"In order to ſhew further the importance of this conſideration between the two kingdoms, it deſerves remark, that the total value of linen cloth exported from Ireland was,

	£.
In 1741,	480,516
1751,	751,993
1761,	803,258
1771,	1,691,787

And it is eſtimated, that about 7-8ths of that whole export is ſent to Great Britain.

"Having

A. D. 1781 "Having obſerved, that our ſyſtem of linen bounties and linen duties, (though poſſibly, in a few caſes, exceptionable in the great ſcale of commercial policy,) has proved an eſſential encouragement to the Iriſh ſtaple, we think it right to add, that it has alſo been the means of forcing forwards an extenſive linen manufacture in this kingdom, though ſtruggling under a great diſadvantage as to the growth and ſupply of the raw material.

"The export of Britiſh linen, intitled to bounty, was,

	Yards.
In 1743,	52,779
1753,	641,510
1763,	2,308,310
1773,	5,235,266

"The increaſe in the exports of Britiſh and Iriſh linens, not intitled to bounty, has, during the periods above-mentioned, been nearly as great in value, though not in quantity; and has been much promoted by the duties on foreign linens, which, when exported, leave behind a certain part of the duties paid on importation, and are ſubject to other cuſtom-houſe charges; ſo that, before they can be re-ſhipped, there is a diſadvantage againſt the foreign manufacturer, equivalent from 5 to 6 per cent.

"On theſe facts your lordſhips will obſerve, that England is the principal market for Iriſh linens, to the annual amount in value of more than one million ſterling; and that ſo large a ſum is paid by this kingdom, not ſo much for export, as for her own internal conſumption, at leaſt 4-5ths of the whole quantity of imported Iriſh linens, and thoſe of the higheſt price, being conſumed in England. The other 1-5th only is exported; your lordſhips will ſee, then, that Ireland has a ſolid and permanent market for her linen at preſent, whence ſhe draws ſpeedy and certain payments, and is thereby enabled to make large returns. And, conſequently, the export of 1-5th to the places ſpecified in the bill, and the reſulting advantages of that export, in a general extenſion of trade, muſt be the object of the preſent bill. The tracing how this may operate in Ireland, will beſt lead us to the probable effects of the meaſure on the linen trade of this kingdom, and thereby enable us to throw ſome light on your lordſhips enquiry.

"From a compariſon of what has been ſtated to us by different gentlemen, whoſe evidence we have taken, it does not appear, that the average expence of freight, commiſſion, warehouſing, wharfage, and other incidents attending the import of Iriſh linen into Britiſh ports, in order to its export from thence, ought to be eſtimated at leſs than $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The bounties, therefore, being equalized in the two kingdoms, Ireland will be able to export this article, under the new opening given to her trade, to an advantage over the Engliſh exporter, equal to $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

"This advantage will, for a certain period, be much counterbalanced by the long credits which will be neceſſary in the markets to which ſhe muſt go; by the uncertain returns from thoſe markets; by the difficulties of ſuddenly diverting any trade from its accuſtomed channel; and alſo by the inability of the Iriſh merchants to ſend full and well-aſſorted cargoes, ſuch as are ſent from England, and which include India goods, foreign linens, and the various articles of manufacture to be collected from Mancheſter, Birmingham, Sheffield, Norwich, and elſewhere. All theſe embarraſſments are likely to bear hard on the firſt adventurers; but means of palliating theſe will gradually be found; and it muſt be expected, that an exiſting operative advantage, in favour of any branch of trade, will ultimately effectuate its eſtabliſhment.

1781 “ Under theſe conſiderations we ſee, with ſome regret, an experiment tending to interrupt and hazard a great branch of commercial intercourſe between the two countries, which has been highly and reciprocally advantageous. We are convinced too, that this new ſpeculation, ſo far as it ſucceeds, will operate to the diminution of our export trade,—to the diminution alſo of the returns for that trade; and, conſequently, to the prejudice of our navigation, and of the commercial intereſts in general; but we cannot think that ſuch miſchiefs are ſuddenly to be expected to any conſiderable extent.

“ If, however, contrary to theſe reaſonings, ſuch a revulſion of trade ſhould take place, it may be well to have foreſeen and conſidered how far Great Britain would have ſome remedy within her own reach. The foreign manufacturers, notwithſtanding the diſadvantages under which they labour by the operation of our bounties and duties, which amount, in their average effect, to near 15 per cent. have been able to preſerve ſome degree of competition, eſpecially in the fine linens; a ſmall reduction therefore in thoſe duties would, in the event ſuppoſed, enable this kingdom to ſupply herſelf with linens as cheap as ever, and with advantage to the revenue. It might probably, too, obtain in return a larger conſumption of woollen manufactures and other goods upon the continent of Europe.

“ If, however, the firſt effect of the bill in queſtion ſhould tend to raiſe the price of the Iriſh linen, which it probably may, and which we are aſſured has already happened in ſome degree, it may be expected, that a larger importation of foreign linens will at once take place without any lowering the duties; and this will more particularly happen in the inſtance of foreign linens imported for home conſumption, if, by the direct export of low-priced linens from Ireland, the Iriſh drapers ſhould no longer be able to make ſuitable aſſortments for the Engliſh market.

“ The conſequence would be, that the import of Iriſh linens in general would be conſiderably diminiſhed, and thoſe concerned in the fine branch of the manufacture would ſuffer in their buſineſs. Another conſequence would be, if it ſhould be thought expedient to continue the bounties, as at preſent, that the demand from the Britiſh manufactures increaſing much, their produce would alſo increaſe in proportion; for it deſerves remark, that, though this kingdom carries on her linen trade, ſubject to great and irremoveable diſadvantages, ſhe is ſuppoſed at preſent to manufacture more linens than are exported from Ireland, and is therefore in that improved ſtate of the buſineſs, which can furniſh a quick ſupply to any ſudden deficiency or increaſed demand.

“ Upon the whole view of the meaſure before us, we are not called upon to form an opinion, how far its ſudden adoption, though favourable to the intereſts of the Dublin factors, and calculated to accelerate and extend the benefits of the North America and Weſt India commerce now open to Ireland, is likely to promote the increaſe and ſecurity of the Iriſh ſtaple manufacture. With reſpect to the operations of that meaſure on the linen trade of this kingdom, it is neceſſary to advert to the ſtate both of our exports and of our manufactures; and, with regard to the firſt, we ſubmit to your lordſhips, that, as far as the direct export of linen from Ireland may take place in conſequence of the bounty now propoſed by Ireland, in ſo much will our exports be affected, and the detriment reſulting to our general trade from that circumſtance, will be increaſed by the returns made for ſuch exports, and by all the collateral conſequences of a proportionable transfer of our navigation and general commerce to the ports of Ireland. With reſpect, however, to the operation on our linen manufactures, we think them much more likely to be promoted than injured by it; and we truſt, for the reaſons which

A. D 1781 we have already detailed to your lordſhips, that the latter effect may be expected from this bill, and that the former will not ſpeedily take place to any conſiderable extent.

"We ought, before we cloſe this report, to take notice of that part of the bill which extends the bounty to the exported checked linens, of which our annual exportation from London and the out-ports, is at preſent to the amount of 120,000l. This valuable branch of trade, which is chiefly ſupplied at preſent by Mancheſter, is certainly liable to be affected by the bounty now propoſed in Ireland;—it has hitherto been ſupported by the vigour and enterpriſing ſpirit of our manufacturers, though under the diſadvantage of either purchaſing the raw material from Ireland, where it is ſubject to a duty upon exportation, or from Embden, Hamburgh, and other places, where it is ſold at a high price. It is eaſy, however, to foreſee, that Ireland, having the material and the export, muſt gradually and ultimately have gained ground in this branch of trade, even without the bounty; and yet with that advantage it may be doubted whether ſhe will ſuddenly ſurmount the various embarraſſments, which ſhe has to encounter, and which we have already deſcribed to your lordſhips.

(Signed), CARLISLE,
C. F. GREVILLE,
WILLIAM EDEN,
ANDREW STUART,
E. GIBBON.

The quantity of linen exported from Ireland to every country, excluſive of Great Britain, diſtinguiſhing each country for the year, ending the 25th of March, 1781.

	Yards.
Eaſt Country,	29,612
Holland,	67,826
Spain and Portugal,	108,215
America,	288,973
Weſt Indies,	142,099

The quantity of linen yarn exported this ſame year to Great Britain, was 37,202 hundred weight, value 223,215l.

The export of frize from Ireland, during this year, was moſtly to America, and amounted to no more than 1779 yards.

Of old drapery, there was imported from Great Britain to Ireland in this year 326,578 yards. Of new drapery 433,198 yards.

It appears from the Cuſtom-houſe books, that there was no exportation of ſilks or mixtures of ſilks from Ireland, till the year 1781, when there was exported of thoſe articles as follows:

	lb.	*oz.*
Ribbands,	13	8
Manufactured ſilk,	430	3½
Thrown, dyed,	25	0

No cotton yarn, manufactures and mixtures of cotton were exported from Ireland previous to this year, when the exports were as follows: Cotton, 239 pounds weight; manufactures and mixtures of cotton, to the value of 157l. 7s.; fuſtians, 1,108 yards.

There were alſo exported from Ireland, during this year, hardware to the value of 16l. 3s.; ironmongers ware to the amount of 253l. 6s. 3d.; and 25 hundred weight of wrought iron.

1781 The export of glaſs from Ireland, in 1781, was as follows: 1,892 dozen of bottles; and glaſs ware to the value of 35l. 8s. 10d. There was no export of glaſs from Ireland previous to the year 1780.

Importation of ſtockings into Ireland in this year.

	Pairs.
Cotton ſtockings,	17,338
Silk ditto,	431
Silk and thread,	24
Silk and worſted,	228
Thread,	29,655
Woollen,	331
Worſted,	5,111

Exportation of ſtockings from Ireland in the ſame period.

Thread ſtockings,	432 dozen, 4 pair.
Woollen,	297 dozen, 11 pair.
Worſted,	1,143 dozen, 1 pair.

The number of hats exported from Ireland in this year, amounted to 1,404.

The importation of upholſtery into Ireland, in 1781, was to the value of 4,805l. 13s. 1d.: export of ditto, in the ſame year, was to the amount of 113l. 6s. 8d.

The quantity of books and paper exported from Ireland in one year, ending at the 25th of March, 1781, was as follows: books, bound, to the value of 1l. 19s. 6d.; and 15 cwt. 3 qrs. 14 lb. weight of books unbound: writing paper, 22 reams.

In this year, 147 bounty veſſels were at the fiſhery in Lough Swilly, which is the principal herring fiſhery in Ireland: they expended, in the cure of fiſh, 1,914 tons of ſalt; which ſalt cured in bulk, (allowing 30 maize, or 15,000 fiſh, to one ton of ſalt) 57,420 maize.—One hundred and ſeventeen veſſels alſo from Liverpool and the Iſle of Man, purchaſed cargoes in Lough Swilly for their red-herring houſes. They purchaſed and royaled, with the ſalt they brought, 49,950 maize or barrels, and paid 12,487l. 10s.

	£.
The value of the total imports from Great Britain into Ireland, this year, was	2,432,417
Whereof the growth, product, or manufacture of Great Britain, amounted to	1,486,317
Remains of foreign,	946,100
Whereof African, American and Aſiatic, about	800,000
Remains of other countries,	146,100

In this year Portugal prohibited the importation of printed linens from Ireland, and even ordered ſuch parcels as were then in the Cuſtom-houſe to be ſent out of the kingdom.

The Portugueſe make a good deal of common linen, and coarſe kind of table linen for their own conſumption, nor is their demand for fine linen from other countries conſiderable.—The French white linens imported into Portugal in 1776 and 1777, amounted only to 20,000 pieces, and the Cambrayas were not ſo much: but the chief importation is of narrow Britannias from Hamburg, amounting in 1777 to near 200,000 pieces: theſe are conſumed in the Portugueſe colonies; and the manufacture of Britain and Ireland has not yet rivalled them

A. D. 1781 in cheapneſs. Iriſh linens pay in proportion to thoſe of France as 120 is to 100; the Iriſh being imported as *Olanda contrafata*, or counterfeit Hollands.

An account of goods and merchandize, being the growth, product, or manufacture of Aſia, imported into Great Britain, and from thence exported to the kingdom of Ireland, from the 25th of March, 1780, incluſive, to the 25th of March, 1781.

DENOMINATIONS.	QUANTITY.		VALUE.		
	Lbs.	*Yards.*	*£.*	*s.*	*d.*
Stained Callico, —	——	1,585	396	5	0
White ditto, —	——	402	80	8	0
Muſlin, —	——	74,220½	12,370	1	8
India Silks and Stuffs,	——	——	3	15	0
Drugs, — —	——	——	7,677	1	9½
Cinnamon, —	7,323	——	2,929	4	0
Cloves, — —	1,943	——	971	10	0
Mace, — —	1,944	——	1,620	0	0
Nutmegs, — —	7,176	——	3,588	0	0
Pepper, — —	53,727	——	3,581	16	0
Piemento, — —	555	——	27	15	0
Rice, — —	85,799	——	609	9	1½
Saltpetre, — —	102,116	——	2,279	7	6
China raw Silks, —	68,429	——	68,429	0	0
Bohea Tea, —	1,224,506	——	122,450	12	0
Green ditto, —	517,127	——	155,138	2	0

☞ China ware is omitted in this account, being confounded with earthen ware from England.

The following is an exact account of the woollen cloth made in the Weſt Riding of Yorkſhire, from March 1780, to March 1781; with the amount of the increaſe from the twelve months preceding that period:—

Broad cloth,—102,118 pieces, containing 3,099,127 yards: increaſed this year, 7,593 pieces, containing 399,496 yards.

Narrow cloth,—98,721 pieces, containing 2,671,397 yards: increaſed this year, 11,412 pieces, containing 100,073 yards.

In this year above 50,000 tons of iron were imported from Ruſſia and Sweden: but the importation yearly from the former of theſe places, does not exceed 26,000 tons; and from the latter, 16,000 tons, on an average of the laſt twelve years.

The quantity of indigo imported this year into England from the Eaſt Indies, amounted to 24,317 lbs.

The following quantity of Britiſh and Dutch ſhipping paſſed the Sound, to and from the Baltic, during the three following years:—

1779	Britiſh,	—	1651	Dutch,	—	2075
1780	Ditto,	—	1701	Ditto,	—	2058
1781	Ditto,	—	2001	Ditto,	—	9

The Britiſh ſhipping that went to Hamburg, and other parts of the north, was alſo very conſiderable: but of the 2001 Britiſh ſhips ſaid to have paſſed the Sound in 1781, the real amount was not, probably, much above 1000; the greater part having made two voyages.

A. D. 1781 The interception of the large fleet under the convoy of Admiral Zoutman, and the ſubſequent blockade of the Dutch ports, ſufficiently accounts for the apparent annihilation of the trade of Holland to the Baltic during this year; the neutral powers, conſequently, reaped conſiderable advantages from this circumſtance; as they, by this means, became the principal carriers in the Dutch and French commerce. Many of the Dutch merchantmen went alſo under Imperial, Swediſh, Pruſſian, Ruſſian, or Daniſh colours; and ſome Engliſh ſhips did the ſame, by which they ſaved conſiderably in the premium of inſurance.

The number of ſhips employed from England in the whale-fiſhery to Davis's ſtraits and the Greenland ſeas, during the courſe of this year, amounted to 34; the bounty at 40s. per ton.—In conſequence of the war, the Dutch had no ſhips on that fiſhery.

An account of corn and grain exported from, and imported into England and Scotland.

EXPORTED.			*IMPORTED.*	
1781.	*Britiſh*	*Foreign*	1781.	*Quarters.*
ENGLAND.	*Qrs.*	*Qrs.*	ENGLAND.	
Wheat, —	2,294	1,726	Wheat, —	143,772
Wheat Flour, &c.	86,045	3,536	Wheat Flour,	15,924
Rye, —	2,550	150	Rye, —	10,743
Barley, —	21,711	—	Barley, —	56
Malt, —	107,928	—	—	—
Oats, —	7,992	18,215	Oats, —	55,502
Oatmeal, —	8,563	116	Oatmeal, —	367
Beans, —	15,248	430	Beans, —	3,244
Peas, —	2,826	290	Peas, —	14,508
SCOTLAND.			SCOTLAND.	
Wheat, —	82	—	Wheat Flour, —	99
Wheat Flour,	9,336	—	Oats, —	53,576
Barley and Bear,	15,588	—		
Barley Meal, —	199	—		
Barley hulled, —	82	—		
Malt, —	5,040	—		
Oats, —	1,171	—		
Oatmeal,	5,660	—		
Peas and Beans,	550	—		
	cwt. qrs. lb.			*cwt. qrs. lb.*
Biſcuit, —	6,383 1 0		Biſcuit, —	43 0 27

The bounties and drawbacks on corn and grain exported from England in this year, amounted to 26,663l. 13s. 0½d.

The amount of the bounties paid on corn and grain exported from Scotland, during the ſame period, was 5,653l. 10s. 9¼d.

The duties on corn imported into England, was 4,275l. 4s. 9d.; and, in Scotland, they amounted to 447l. 6s. 3¾d.

The average prices of corn in England and Wales, by the ſtandard Wincheſter buſhel, for this year, was as follows:—

Wheat, 5s. 7d.; rye, 3s. 4¼d.; barley, 2s. 1¾d.; oats, 1s. 8½d.; beans, 2s. 10½d.

A. D. 1781

The following are the variations of the public funds during this year, with the higheſt and loweſt prices arranged oppoſite to each month.

	Bank Stock.	3 per cent. reduc	3 per cent. conſol	3 per ct. B. 1726	3½ p. ct. B. 1758	4 per cent. 1777	Long Ann.	Ann. 1778	S Sea Old Ann.	S Sea New Ann.	3 per ct. B. 1751	India Stock.	India Ann.	India Bonds.	Nav Bills.	Omni-Pre
January,	108¼	57¾	60¼	55	57	71⅜	15 11/16	11⅝	56⅜	55	54¼	148¼	55½	14s. pr.	13½	—
	115½	56⅝	57¾	—	56½	69⅞	15½	11 7/16	54¾	54½	53¾	145¾	54½	3	11½	—
February,	108½	57⅝	59	55½	57½	72¼	16⅛	11 13/16	56	55¾	54¾	148	54¾	4	14	—
	105⅛	56¾	57¾	55	56½	70½	15⅝	11 7/16	54¾	54¾	54⅛	146½	54⅜	1	13⅛	—
March,	112¾	57⅞	63¼	—	59	76½	17 3/16	12 11/16	60⅜	57½	56½	155¾	57½	5	13⅞	8
	106¾	57⅝	58⅛	—	57½	71½	15 5/16	11½	56½	55¾	55½	147	54⅝	par.	12¼	—
April,	112¼	58	58¾	—	58½	75¼	17½	12 15/16	57⅛	58	57¼	148	54¾	11	13	9
	108¼	57½	58½	—	58⅛	72⅝	16 15/16	12 7/16	—	57⅛	56¾	144½	54½	3	11¾	1¼
May,	113½	58	58¾	56⅞	58⅞	74	17½	12 15/16	57¾	58¾	—	147¼	57⅞	15	12¼	9¾
	110¾	57½	57½	—	58⅝	73½	17¼	12 11/16	57¼	58¼	—	144	54⅝	9	11⅜	8⅛
June,	113⅝	58¼	59¼	57¼	59½	74⅛	17 9/16	12⅞	58½	59⅛	58⅛	145½	55½	16	11½	8¾
	112¼	57¾	58⅝	—	—	73¾	17 7/16	12¾	57½	58⅝	57¾	143¼	55¼	9	10⅝	8
July,	114¼	58⅜	57½	—	57⅜	74	17⅛	12 9/16	58	56¾	56½	145	55¾	16	12	—
	113⅛	57⅞	57⅛	—	57¼	73⅜	17	12⅜	57¾	56½	—	133	55¼	8	10⅞	8⅛
Auguſt,	114⅛	58¼	57¼	56	57½	74	17	12½	57⅞	57¼	56⅛	140	55⅝	10	11⅜	—
	113⅛	57¾	56⅞	55¾	57¼	73⅝	16⅝	12 5/16	57⅝	56¾	55⅝	134	55	4	11	7⅞
Septemb.	119	57⅞	57	—	57⅛	73¾	16¾	12⅜	57¾	57⅛	55⅞	141	55⅛	6	12	7¾
	113	57¾	56⅛	—	56⅝	73⅛	16 5/16	12⅛	57	56½	—	138	—	1 dif.	11⅛	7½
October,	115½	55⅞	56¾	56⅝	58	73⅝	16¾	12⅜	55⅛	56¾	56⅛	140¾	53	5 pr.	12¾	—
	108½	55¼	55⅞	54¾	56¼	70½	16⅜	12¼	54¾	55¾	—	138½	52½	2	11⅞	—
Novemb.	113	58	58⅞	56	57½	73	16 15/16	12¾	56	56⅞	55¾	141¾	53⅞	5	12	—
	107¾	54⅞	55⅜	55¼	55¾	70⅛	16 3/16	12 3/11	54½	55⅜	55⅛	138¾	52⅝	4 dif.	10¾	—
Decemb.	111⅜	57⅜	57⅞	56¼	57⅞	72⅛	16 15/16	12 15/16	56⅝	57⅜	56⅞	142	55¼	8 pr.	12	—
	110	56½	57⅜	56⅛	57¾	71⅛	16 13/16	12 9/16	55⅝	56½	55½	138½	53¼	3	11⅛	—

The following bills relative to trade and commerce received the royal aſſent in the ſeſſion of Parliament which commenced on November 1, 1780, and was prorogued on the 18th of July, 1781:

A bill for the better ſupply of mariners to ſerve in his Majeſty's ſhips of war, and on board merchant-ſhips.

For extending the proviſions of three acts made in the 18th, 19th, and 20th years of his preſent Majeſty's reign, with reſpect to bringing prize-goods into this kingdom; to prizes taken from the States-General of the United Provinces; for declaring what goods ſhall be deemed military or ſhip ſtores; for regulating the ſale of, and aſcertaining the duties upon, Eaſt India goods, condemned as prize in the port of London; for permitting the purchaſers of prize-goods condemned abroad, to import ſuch goods into this kingdom, under the like regulations and advantages as are granted by law to the captors themſelves; and for reducing the duties on foreign prize tobacco.

For the encouragement of ſeamen, and the more ſpeedy and effectual manning of his Majeſty's navy.

For further continuing an act made in the 19th year of his preſent Majeſty, for allowing the importation of fine organzined Italian thrown ſilk, in any ſhips or veſſels, for a limited time.

For raiſing a certain ſum by way of annuities and a lottery, and for conſolidating certain annuities, &c.

For

A. D. 1781 For repealing the diſcounts and abatements upon certain foreign goods, and for granting additional duties upon tobacco and ſugar imported into Great Britain.

For granting to his Majeſty an additional duty upon the produce of the ſeveral duties under the management of the reſpective commiſſioners of the exciſe in Great Britain.

To permit the importation of flax and flax-ſeed into this kingdom and Ireland, in any ſhip or veſſel belonging to any kingdom or ſtate in amity with his Majeſty, navigated with foreign mariners, during the preſent hoſtilities.

For repealing the preſent duties upon paper, paſte-boards, mill-boards, and ſcale-boards made in Great Britain; and for granting other duties in lieu thereof.

For permitting goods the product or manufacture of certain places within the Levant or Mediterranean ſeas, to be imported into Great Britain or Ireland, in Britiſh or foreign veſſels, from any place whatſoever; and for laying a duty on cotton and cotton wool imported into this kingdom, in foreign ſhips or veſſels, during the preſent hoſtilities.

To permit, during the preſent hoſtilities, the importation of goods the produce of the plantations of the crown of Portugal, into Great Britain and Ireland, in Portugueſe veſſels; and the importation of certain other goods therein mentioned, in any neutral ſhips or veſſels.

To continue ſeveral laws relating to the opening and eſtabliſhing certain free ports in the iſland of Jamaica; for allowing the free importation of ſago powder and vermicelli from his Majeſty's colonies in North America; for the free importation of raw hides and ſkins from Ireland and the Britiſh plantations in America; for the exportation of proviſions, goods, wares, and merchandize, to certain places in North America, which are, or may be under the protection of his Majeſty's arms; and from ſuch places, to Great Britain, and other parts of his Majeſty's dominions, &c.

For continuing and amending an act made in the laſt ſeſſion of Parliament, entitled, "An act for appointing and enabling commiſſioners to examine, take, and ſtate the public accounts of the kingdom; and to report what balances are in the hands of the accountants, which may be applied to the public ſervice, and what defects there are in the preſent mode of reviewing, collecting, iſſuing, and accounting for public money; and in what more expeditious and effectual, and leſs expenſive manner, the ſaid ſervice can, in future, be regulated and carried on for the benefit of the public."

To direct the payment into the Exchequer of the reſpective balances remaining in the hands of ſeveral perſons therein named, and for indemnifying the ſaid perſons and their repreſentatives againſt all future claims relating thereto, and for other purpoſes therein mentioned.

For continuing the encouragement and reward to perſons making certain diſcoveries for aſcertaining the longitude at ſea, or making other uſeful diſcoveries and improvements in navigation, and for making experiments relating thereto.

For eſtabliſhing an agreement with the Eaſt India Company for the payment of the ſum of 400,000l. for the uſe of the public, for granting the ſaid Company, for a further term, the ſole and excluſive trade to and from the Eaſt Indies; and for eſtabliſhing certain regulations for the better management of the ſaid Company, as well in India as in Europe, and for recruiting the military forces of the ſaid Company.

Alſo a bill for explaining and amending ſo much of the aforeſaid act as relates to the adminiſtration of juſtice in Bengal, under a judgment of the Supreme Court of Judicature; and alſo for indemnifying the Governor-General and Council of Bengal, and all officers who have acted under their orders or authority, in reſiſtance to the proceſs of the Supreme Court.

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SUPPLIES granted by Parliament for this year:—	£.	s.	d.
For 90,000 ſeamen, including 20,317 marines, ordnance, &c.	4,446,000	0	0
For the ordinary of the navy, &c.	386,261	5	8
Towards building and repairing ſhips of war,	670,016	0	0
Towards diſcharging the debt of the navy,	3,200,000	0	0
For the charge of the office of ordnance for the land ſervice, &c.	582,924	11	9
Ditto for the ſea ſervice,	234,000	0	0
Ordnance extraordinaries of 1781,	252,104	3	4
Ditto of 1780,	447,182	4	6
For compenſation to proprietors of lands near Chatham,	20,671	12	6
Ditto of lands near Sheerneſs and Graveſend,	13,452	17	0
Ditto of lands at and near Tilbury fort,	148	18	0
For 39,666 land-forces, including 4,213 invalids, &c.	1,049,774	8	11
For the pay of the general and ſtaff-officers, &c.	42,927	16	0
For maintaining forces and garriſons out of the kingdom,	1,488,927	0	0
For five Hanoverian battalions ſerving at Gibraltar and Minorca,	56,074	19	4½
For the charge of 13,472 Heſſian troops and ſubſidy,	367,203	9	10
To make good the deficiencies in ſums voted for ditto in 1780,	6,463	8	5¾
For the charge of 4,300 Brunſwickers,	93,947	15	8
For ditto of two regiments of foot of Hanau and ſubſidy,	39,597	1	11¼
Ditto of one regiment of Waldeck, and ſubſidy,	17,498	3	2¾
For ditto of 1,447 troops of the Margrave of Anſpach, &c.	39,644	14	3
For a corps of foot of Anhalt Zerbſt, with the ſubſidy, &c.	16,630	11	9¼
For proviſions for the foreign troops ſerving in America,	49,373	17	1
For artillery for the foreign troops,	27,683	14	0
For the militia, and four regiments of fencible men in North Britain,	672,457	15	0
For the cloathing of the militia,	99,679	13	4
For additional militia companies, &c.	6,010	3	9
Ditto of eighty independent companies of foot,	117,608	6	8
To make good the deficiency on pay of additional companies, &c. of militia, in 1780,	8,452	4	8
Ditto on the vote for pay of two battalions of Lord John Murray's regiment, in 1780,	1,107	16	4
For extra army expences, &c. not provided for by Parliament,	3,351,589	13	4½
On account of the reduced officers of his Majeſty's land forces, &c.	79,059	0	0
For allowances to ſeveral officers and private gentlemen of the two reduced troops of horſe-guards, &c.	596	4	2
For the charge of out-penſioners of Chelſea Hoſpital, &c.	91,604	7	1
To Dr. William Smith, for attendance on the ſick and deceaſed priſoners in the gaols of Middleſex, Weſtminſter, and Southwark, for near four years, and for medicines for their uſe, &c.	1,200	0	0
To the Levant Company,	8,000	0	0
On account of new roads and bridges in the Highlands of North Britain,	4,994	17	6
For repairing, &c. Britiſh forts and ſettlements on the coaſt of Africa,	13,000	0	0
Carried over,	18,003,868	15	2

	£.	s.	d.
Brought over,	18,003,868	15	2
To make good to his Majeſty the like ſum iſſued by his Majeſty's orders, in purſuance of the addreſſes of the Houſe of Commons,	22,222	0	0
For the relief of certain American civil officers, &c.	57,910	12	0
To Mr. Duncan Campbell, for employing convicts in heaving ballaſt on the Thames,	15,487	17	0
For the relief of the ſufferers by the violent hurricanes in the iſland of Barbadoes,	80,000	0	0
Ditto of the iſland of Jamaica,	40,000	0	0
Towards carrying on the buildings at Somerſet Houſe,	36,207	4	3
For the civil eſtabliſhment of the iſland of St. John,	3,150	0	0
Ditto of Georgia,	2,986	0	0
Ditto of Nova Scotia,	5,099	10	5
Ditto of Eaſt Florida,	3,950	0	0
Ditto of Weſt Florida,	3,900	0	0
On account of general ſurveys in North America,	207	0	0
Towards rebuilding Newgate,	10,000	0	0
Towards repairing the King's-bench and Fleet priſons, which were ſet on fire by the rioters in 1780,	25,000	0	0
To Mr. H. Philips, for his diſcovery of a certain powder for the deſtruction of inſects,	3,600	0	0
To ſuch perſons whoſe loſſes by the riots in June 1780, amounted to 100l. or under,	5,200	0	0
To the Bank for diſcounts, and rewards for receiving and paying contributions,	92,375	14	4
For diſcharging the prizes of the lottery of 1780,	480,000	0	0
Towards diſcharging certain Exchequer bills, with intereſt,	1,941,849	3	5½
For diſcharging certain other Exchequer bills, &c.	1,559,678	1	7
For ditto,	1,033,261	2	9
Deficiency in the land-tax,	252,978	11	0
Ditto in the malt-tax,	43,717	2	11¼
Ditto of coinage duty,	8,052	4	1
Ditto of annuity fund, 1758,	30,999	11	2
Ditto of annuity fund, 1778,	191,664	7	2
Ditto of annuity fund, 1779,	193,663	0	1¼
Ditto of annuity fund, 1780,	222,745	4	6
Ditto of ways and means, 1780,	8,551	8	8¾
	24,378,324	10	8¾
For military ſervices, on the vote of credit,	1,000,000	0	0
Total Supplies,	25,378,324	10	8¾

The

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The Ways and Means for raiſing the foregoing ſupplies.	£.	s.	d.
Duty on malt,	750,000	0	0
Land tax at 4s.	2,000,000	0	0
By annuities and lottery,	12,480,000	0	0
By certain ſurpluſſes of the ſinking fund,	2,788,346	19	8
By Exchequer bills,	1,500,000	0	0
By ditto,	1,900,000	0	0
By ditto, for the Bank charter,	2,000,000	0	0
By money to be paid by the Eaſt India Company,	400,000	0	0
By ſurplus of the 2-7ths 9d exciſe,	23,708	11	10½
By ditto of the fund for life annuities 18 George II.	40,000	0	0
By ditto of the fund for life annuities 19 George II.	56,000	0	0
Diſpoſeable money in the Exchequer,	16,879	6	8½
By balances of the late treaſurers of the navy and paymaſters of the forces, voted 400,000l. but no more paid into the Exchequer than	367,640	3	6½
By balance of the account of Sir William Howe,	18,723	13	11
By ditto of the account of Meſſrs. Fonnereau and Burrel,	1,357	14	0
By ditto of the account of Sir William Erſkine,	772	8	6½
By part of the balance of the account of the late Mr. Richardſon,	5,000	0	0
By the ſale of lands in the ceded iſlands,	5,200	0	0
By money ariſen from the ſale of French prizes,			
By duty on gum Senegal,	228	0	0
	24,353,857	4	9
Vote of credit,	1,000,000	0	0
Total of Ways and Means,	25,353,857	4	9
Total amount of Supplies granted,	25,378,324	10	8¾
Total amount of Ways and Means,	25,353,857	4	9
Deficiency of Ways and Means,	24,467	5	11¾

	£.	s.	d.
The national debt, up to July 1781, amounted to	£. 177,206,000	0	0
The annual intereſt of which was,	6,812,000	0	0

The following additional taxes were impoſed this year:—

	£.	s.	d.
Five per cent. on exciſe, except malt, ſoap, candles and hides,	£. 150,000	0	0
Diſcount of the cuſtoms,	167,000	0	0
Tobacco, 1¾d. per pound,	61,000	0	0
Sugar, one halfpenny per pound,	326,000	0	0
Duty on paper,	100,060	0	0
Duty on almanacks,	10,000	0	0
Total of new taxes,	£. 814,060	0	0

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1781 Review of perpetual taxes, from 1776 to 1781, incluſive :—

Computed produce per annum.

Taxes.					Taxes.				
In 1776	—	£. 73,000	0	0	In 1779	—	£. 478,000	0	0
1777	—	242,000	0	0	1780	—	701,616	0	0
1778	—	336,000	0	0	1781	—	814,060	0	0
					Total of perpetual taxes,		2,644,676	0	0

An account of the chriſtenings and burials within the bills of mortality in London, from December 10, 1780, to December 11, 1781.

Chriſtened, males	8,774	Buried, males	10,499
——— females	8,252	——— females	10,210
	17,026		20,709

1782 Of the great variety of important matter which demands a place in the hiſtory of this year, we ſhall begin with a brief ſtatement of ſuch of the parliamentary tranſactions of it, as bear a more immediate relation to our ſubject.

The ruinous tendency of the American war was now become ſo very evident to the whole nation, and the miniſtry appeared ſo full of doubt and heſitation as to any future mode of carrying it on, that it ſeemed to be abſolutely neceſſary for the welfare of this country, that ſome effectual means ſhould be employed to put an end to ſuch a fatal conteſt. With this view General Conway, on the 22d of February, made the following motion in the Houſe of Commons, " That an humble addreſs ſhould be preſented to his Majeſty, earneſtly imploring his Majeſty, that, taking into conſideration the many and great calamities which had attended the preſent unfortunate war, and the heavy burthens thereby brought on his loyal and affectionate people, he would be graciouſly pleaſed to liſten to the humble prayer and advice of his faithful Commons, that the war on the continent of North America might no longer be purſued, for the impracticable purpoſe of reducing that country to obedience by force : and expreſſing their hope, that the earneſt deſire and diligent exertion to reſtore the public tranquillity, of which they had received his Majeſty's moſt gracious aſſurances, might, by an happy reconciliation with the revolted colonies, be forwarded and made effectual ; to which great end his Majeſty's faithful Commons would be ready moſt cheerfully to give their utmoſt aſſiſtance." This motion called forth all the powers of both parties. The arguments which had already been employed on this ſubject, were now repeated : but it evidently appeared, at the cloſe of the debate, that the ſtrength of the miniſtry was in a rapid decline, as the addreſs was negatived by a majority of only one voice : 193 appearing for it, and 194 againſt it.

In full confidence of obtaining a decided majority, General Conway renewed his motion on the 27th of the ſame month, in a ſomewhat different form. On that day, a petition from the city of London was preſented to the Houſe, ſoliciting the Houſe to interpoſe in ſuch a manner, as ſhould prevent any further proſecution of the American war : after which, General Conway moved, " That it ſhould be reſolved, that it was the opinion of that Houſe, that the further proſecution of offenſive war on the continent of North America, for the purpoſe of reducing the revolted colonies to obedience, by force, would be the means of weakening the efforts of

this

A. D. 1782 this country againſt her European enemies, and tend, under the preſent circumſtances, dangerouſly to encreaſe the mutual enmity, ſo fatal to the intereſts both of Great Britain and America; and, by preventing an happy reconciliation with that country, to fruſtrate the earneſt deſire graciouſly expreſſed by his Majeſty to reſtore the bleſſings of public tranquillity."

Among other arguments that were brought to prove the prodigious diſadvantage attending an American war, it was aſſerted that, upon the cleareſt computation, France expended no more than 40l. ſterling for every man ſhe had ſent to the aſſiſtance of the Americans, while Great Britain paid no leſs than 100l. This great difference was enhanced to a moſt alarming degree, when the diſparity of the numbers maintained by the two contending kingdoms was taken into conſideration. At the time of the reduction of the army under Lord Cornwallis, the period at which the French troops were moſt numerous in America, they amounted to no more than 8000 men, and, at other times, had not exceeded 5000; while the Britiſh forces on the American eſtabliſhment, had been paid for at the rate of 70,000.

The anſwers of adminiſtration were not unaccompanied with ſtrong arguments in ſupport of them. The meaſures in contemplation with regard to America, were repreſented as founded on the moſt obvious expediency. While the colonies continue at war with this country, it would be highly imprudent to act as if we were at peace with them: it would betray a timidity and a fear of offending them, unworthy the character of the Britiſh nation. It would expoſe us to their contempt, and inſtead of accelerating the work of peace, would incline them to treat us with haughtineſs, and to aſſume a ſtile of ſuperiority which would naturally tend to throw obſtructions in the way of that reconciliation which was ſo much and ſo univerſally deſired.—Such, it was ſaid, ought to be the future plan of acting with the Americans, as to convince them, that though the Britiſh nation was willing to be reconciled with the colonies, yet it was fully determined not to degrade itſelf, by any mean or unworthy conceſſions; but, on the contrary, to hold out terms entirely compatible with its honour, as well as advantageous to them; and, in the mean time, to preſerve a firm and reſolute conduct, equally removed from pride or from fear.

It was alſo obſerved by a great law officer, that there were ſeveral obſtacles to be removed in order to treat of peace with America, which the Houſe did not ſeem to recollect. At that moment, ſeveral acts of Parliament were in exiſtence, which would prove inſuperable bars to ſuch an attempt. He, therefore, recommended a truce, as a neceſſary preliminary ſtep, during the continuance of which, the enmity, occaſioned by the violence of the conteſt, might ſubſide, and each party, being at leiſure to conſult their real intereſts, might, at length, accede to terms of peace; which, having undergone a ſlow and temperate diſcuſſion, might prove more honourable and advantageous, as well as more likely to ſecure a permanent union, than thoſe reſulting from ſudden overtures and ſimilar acquieſcence. He declared his intention of bringing in a bill, with the permiſſion of the Houſe, for theſe purpoſes; and he, in conſequence, moved, "That the preſent debate be adjourned to the 13th day of the enſuing March." The Houſe divided upon the motion, when there appeared for it 215, and againſt it 234; ſo that there was a majority of 19 againſt the miniſtry. The original motion was put and carried without a diviſion. The General immediately followed this motion with another for an addreſs to the King, in which his Majeſty was ſolicited to put a ſtop to any further proſecution of offenſive war againſt the colonies. This was alſo agreed to, as well as that the addreſs ſhould be preſented to his Majeſty by the whole Houſe. The addreſs was accordingly preſented on the firſt of March, when his Majeſty, in anſwer, declared, "That there were no objects nearer to

1782 his heart than the eaſe, happineſs, and proſperity of his people; and that the Houſe of Commons might be aſſured, that, in purſuance of their advice, he ſhould take ſuch meaſures, as ſhould appear to him to be moſt conducive to the reſtoration of harmony between Great Britain and her revolted colonies, ſo eſſential to the proſperity of both; and that his efforts ſhould be directed, in the moſt effectual manner, againſt our European enemies, until ſuch a peace could be obtained, as ſhould conſiſt with the intereſts and permanent welfare of his kingdoms."

This parliamentary determination againſt any further proſecution of the American war, was a moſt important event, and diffuſed a very conſiderable degree of joy throughout the kingdom, as it had ſuch an evident tendency towards accelerating that peace, which the intereſts of the nation ſo indiſpenſably required; and as every rank of people were now become weary of that unhappy conteſt with the colonies, which had been productive of nothing but national calamity and diſgrace, an enormous load of taxes, and an immenſe augmentation of the national debt.

But though the proceedings of the Houſe of Commons, in addreſſing his Majeſty againſt any further proſecution of the American war, gave very general ſatisfaction, it was thought by many, that the royal anſwer was not ſufficiently explicit. On this principle, therefore, General Conway moved, on the 4th of March, "That an humble addreſs ſhould be preſented to his Majeſty, to return his Majeſty the thanks of that Houſe, for his gracious anſwer to their addreſs preſented to him on Friday the firſt of that month, and for the aſſurances he had been pleaſed to give them of his intention, in purſuance of the advice of that Houſe, to take ſuch meaſures as ſhould appear moſt conducive to the reſtoration of harmony between Great Britain and the revolted Colonies, &c.; that Houſe being convinced that nothing could, in the preſent circumſtances of this country, ſo eſſentially promote thoſe great objects of his Majeſty's paternal care for his people, as the meaſures which his moſt faithful Commons had moſt humbly, but earneſtly recommended to his Majeſty." This motion was agreed to, *nemine contradicente*; after which, the General made a ſecond motion, that it ſhould be reſolved by that Houſe, "That after the ſolemn declaration of the opinion of that Houſe in their addreſs to his Majeſty, &c. and his Majeſty's aſſurance, &c. that Houſe would conſider as enemies to his Majeſty and this country, all thoſe who ſhould endeavour to fruſtrate his Majeſty's paternal care for the eaſe and happineſs of his people, by adviſing, or by any means attempting, the further proſecution of offenſive war on the continent of North America, for the purpoſe of reducing the revolted colonies to obedience by force.

Notwithſtanding the majority which had lately appeared in the Houſe of Commons againſt the miniſtry, they did not diſcover any diſpoſition to reſign, To bring matters, however, to this iſſue, the members of the oppoſition continued to employ the moſt vigorous efforts; and, on the 8th of March, a motion was made in the Houſe of Commons, by Lord John Cavendiſh, that it ſhould be reſolved, "That it appeared to that Houſe, that ſince the year 1775, upwards of one hundred millions of money had been expended on the army and navy, in a fruitleſs war:" which was followed up with three other reſolutions.

Firſt, "That it appears to this Houſe, that during the above period, we have loſt the thirteen colonies of America, which anciently did belong to the crown of Great Britain, (except the ports of New York, Charleſtown and Savannah,) the newly acquired colony of Florida, many of our valuable Weſt India and other iſlands, and thoſe few that remain are in the moſt imminent danger."

Secondly,

Secondly, " That it appears to this Houſe, that Great Britain is at preſent engaged in an expenſive war with France, Spain and Holland, without a ſingle ally."

Thirdly, " That it appears to this Houſe, that the chief cauſe of all theſe misfortunes, is want of foreſight and ability in his Majeſty's miniſters."

The moving of theſe reſolutions, occaſioned one of the warmeſt and moſt acrimonious debates that ever took place in the Houſe of Commons. The three firſt reſolutions were ſelf-evident, but the fourth was of a nature to employ the utmoſt powers of both parties in the attack and defence of it. The Houſe of Commons had not been ſo full during the courſe of many years, as on the debating this very intereſting queſtion: no leſs than 480 members were preſent, and at two o'clock in the morning, the Houſe divided on a motion for the order of the day, which had been made by the Secretary at War, and which was carried by a majority of ten.

Such an inconſiderable majority on a queſtion of ſuch magnitude, and wherein the miniſters were ſo directly and perſonally attacked, was a kind of ſignal to renew the charge againſt them:—notice was accordingly given that the motion would be repeated; and, on the 15th of March, a motion was made by Sir John Rous, in which, after reciting the facts contained in the reſolutions made on the 8th, it was propoſed to reſolve, "That in conſideration thereof, the Houſe could have no further confidence in the miniſters who had the direction of public affairs." The queſtion was negatived by a majority only of nine. Notice was alſo given at the cloſe of this diviſion, that a motion to the ſame effect would be made on the Wedneſday following.

On that day, the 20th of March, the Houſe being extremely crouded, Lord Surry was preparing to make the promiſed motion, when Lord North informed the Houſe, as he underſtood the motion about to be made was ſimilar to one which had been made a few days before, that it was become wholly unneceſſary, as the adminiſtration, againſt which it was levelled, no longer exiſted, the King having come to a determination to change his miniſters. He moved, in conſequence, for an adjournment, that leiſure might be given for the new miniſterial arrangement.

Previous to the meeting of Parliament after the Chriſtmas receſs, there was no very great expectation formed of any change in the adminiſtration; but, the calamities occaſioned by the American war, the enormous weight of taxes, and the diminution of the value of landed property, at length awakened the fears of thoſe country gentlemen who had generally voted with the miniſtry. They ſaw the dangers to which the nation was expoſed, they felt the preſſure of the public burthens, and they deſerted from the ſtandard of adminiſtration. The miniſterial majorities of courſe began to diminiſh, the oppoſition became much increaſed in numbers, and a complete revolution in the adminiſtration was at length effected.

On the 27th of March, the following arrangements took place in the adminiſtration. The Marquis of Rockingham was appointed firſt Lord of the Treaſury; Lord John Cavendiſh Chancellor of the Exchequer; the Earl of Shelburne and Mr. Fox, Secretaries of State; Admiral Keppel, firſt Lord of the Admiralty; General Conway, Commander in Chief of the Forces, &c. &c.

Such a complete and radical change of his Majeſty's miniſters, at ſuch a moment of general diſtreſs and alarm, and from whence a new, and as it was hoped, a more ſucceſsful plan of public meaſures would proceed, was followed by a very conſiderable degree of national ſatisfaction. It was one of thoſe important events which, by giving a new turn to the operations of

1782 of government, furniſhed thoſe hopes which raiſed declining and gave animation to drooping commerce. We, therefore, have not gone beyond our proper limits, in tracing the progreſs of it.

The firſt ſtep of public conſequence taken by the new miniſtry, was to remove the cauſe of thoſe jealouſies that had ſo long ſubſiſted in Ireland, by procuring the repeal of ſuch acts as were moſt obnoxious and oppreſſive to that kingdom. But as the arrangement which afterwards took place between Great Britain and Ireland, and the new poſition in which the latter was placed in conſequence of it, is a great commercial object, we ſhall give a brief account of what had paſſed in the ſiſter kingdom previous to the meaſures adopted by the Britiſh Parliament relative to it.

At a meeting of the repreſentatives of 143 corps of volunteers of the province of Ulſter, held at Dungannon on the 15th of February in this year, it was reſolved, that a claim of any body of men, other than the King, Lords and Commons of Ireland, to make laws to bind that kingdom, was unconſtitutional, illegal, and a grievance; that the power exerciſed by the Privy Councils of both kingdoms, under colour or pretence of the law of Poynings, were unconſtitutional and a grievance; that a mutiny bill not limited, in point of duration, from ſeſſion to ſeſſion, was unconſtitutional and a grievance; and that the ports of that country were, by right, open to all foreign countries, not at war with the King; and that any burthen thereupon, or obſtruction thereto, ſave only by the Parliament of Ireland, was unconſtitutional, illegal, and a grievance. It having been aſſerted that volunteers, as ſuch, could not, with propriety debate, or publiſh their opinions on political ſubjects, or on the conduct of Parliament or parliamentary men, they reſolved, that a citizen, by learning the uſe of arms, did not abandon any of his civil rights; and they declared, that it was their decided and unalterable determination to ſeek a redreſs of the public grievances, and to uſe all conſtitutional means to make ſuch their purſuit of redreſs ſpeedy and effectual.

One of the moſt firm, vigorous and eloquent aſſertors of the independence of the Parliament of Ireland was Mr. Grattan, and that gentleman, a few days after the meeting held at Dungannon, moved, in the Iriſh Houſe of Commons, a long and ſpirited addreſs to his Majeſty, declarative of the rights of Ireland, and aſſerting, that no other power but the King, Lords and Commons of Ireland were competent to make laws for that kingdom, though that power had been aſſumed by the Britiſh Parliament. This motion, after a long debate, was rejected by a conſiderable majority. This repulſe, however, did not prevent Mr. Grattan from continuing to urge his countrymen, with the utmoſt ardour, not to deſiſt from their attempts, till they had obtained the object of their purſuit.

Such was the ſtate of affairs in the ſiſter kingdom, when Mr. Eden, Secretary to the Earl of Carliſle, who was juſt removed from the vice-royalty, in favour of the Duke of Portland, arrived in England in conſequence of the late change of adminiſtration. On the 8th of April, which was the firſt day of the meeting of Parliament after the receſs, that gentleman brought the affairs of Ireland rather unexpectedly before the Houſe. In a ſpeech of conſiderable length, he gave an account of thoſe tranſactions which we have already noticed. He alſo remarked, that though, in conſequence of the acts paſſed, in the year 1780, Ireland had emerged from laws, which, for a length of time, had fettered all her induſtry and commerce, yet the increaſe of the opulence of the kingdom, was not equal to thoſe ſanguine expectations, which were entertained by numbers, amidſt the firſt dreams of the extenſive benefits which would accompany a free trade; and, therefore, they looked back with dread upon the Engliſh laws, and reſolved

A. D. 1782 to aſſert the independence of their own Parliament, upon that of Great Britain. He avoided all enquiry, whether this was a queſtion of right or of power. It had, however, been exerciſed for a long period of years, but could be exerciſed no longer,—and even if it could, no benefit would reſult from it, ſince the ſyſtem of reſtraining Iriſh commerce had been wiſely diſcontinued. He was, however, convinced, from the preſent diſpoſition of the people of Ireland, that it was abſolutely neceſſary to repeal ſo much of the act of the ſixth of George I. as aſſerted the right in the King and Parliament of Great Britain to make laws to bind the kingdom and people of Ireland. And he accordingly moved for leave to bring in a bill for that purpoſe.

The oppoſition made by the miniſtry to an immediate acquieſcence with this motion, was on the following grounds. It was aſſerted, that it was not from any indiſpoſition in miniſters to do ample juſtice to the ſiſter kingdom, that they had not, on the very firſt day of their appearing in Parliament, in their official characters, propoſed ſuch meaſures as were, in their opinion, calculated to conciliate the affections of the Iriſh, and terminate the uneaſineſſes, the jealouſies, and the tumults which had ſubſiſted, and continued to ſubſiſt, in that injured and irritated country: it was not from the leaſt diſinclination to put Ireland in poſſeſſion of her actual rights, that they had not immediately proceeded to deciſive ſteps; but becauſe they diſdained to catch, with equal eagerneſs and want of policy, at the expedient of the minute, and to patch up a preſent difficulty on any terms, rather than meet it fairly, and endeavour to diſcover as well as purſue the moſt ſubſtantial and laſting modes of remedying a real evil and preventing its return. It was with a view to ſettle the conſtitution of the two countries in ſuch a manner as ſhould prove perfectly ſatisfactory to England and Ireland, and promiſe to afford a laſting harmony to both, that they had pauſed upon the ſubject. It was alſo officially declared, that, during the very ſhort time miniſters had been in office, they had held ſeveral councils on the affairs of Ireland, and propoſed very ſhortly to offer ſome preparatory meaſures to Parliament relative to them. After ſome further debate, Mr. Eden agreed to withdraw his motion.

Nor did miniſters fail in proving the ſincerity of their aſſertion,—for on the very next day the Secretary of State brought a meſſage from his Majeſty, to inform the Houſe, "That being concerned to find diſcontents and jealouſies prevailing amongſt his loyal ſubjects in Ireland, on matters of great weight and importance, he earneſtly recommended to the Houſe to take the ſame into their moſt ſerious conſideration, in order to make ſuch a final adjuſtment, as might give mutual ſatisfaction to both kingdoms. A meſſage to the ſame effect was delivered to the Lords, the firſt day of their meeting, and addreſſes were unanimouſly voted by both Houſes.

If ever there was a matter that required the precautions of deliberative wiſdom, it was that which now occupied the attentions of the Britiſh government. It was now evident, from the pretenſions of the Iriſh, expreſſed by the Parliament and the people, that the matter contained no leſs than the conſtitution of the kingdom; that it comprehended not only all commercial rights and privileges, but alſo the legiſlative and ſovereign powers. The moſt important objects were, therefore, embraced, and both nations were moſt materially concerned in the diſcuſſion and ſettlement of a matter of ſuch conſequence. It was a ſubject on which the King could not decide without the aſſiſtance of his Parliament; nor, indeed, could it be done without the concurring operation of the Parliaments of both kingdoms. To enter, therefore, into the buſineſs with propriety, and in a manner which would give effect to their proceedings, it was neceſſary to have full and authentic information, and that both Parliaments ſhould not

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1782 only take time in their deliberations, but give each other, in the progreſs of this important buſineſs, all poſſible aid and aſſiſtance, in order to forward an happy termination of it. The object of the preſent moment was, to ſettle the true quality and the nature of the relationſhip which ſubſiſted between the two countries, to aſcertain their diſtinct conſtitutions, and to eſtabliſh ſuch an union and connection between them as ſhould endure for ages.

On the 16th of April, which was within a few days after his Majeſty's meſſage to the Britiſh Parliament, Mr. Grattan moved, in the Houſe of Commons of Ireland, a declaration of rights, under the form of an addreſs to the throne, which, after ſome debate, was agreed to without a diviſion. In this addreſs it was declared, that his Majeſty's ſubjects of Ireland were a free people; that the crown of Ireland was an imperial crown, inſeparably annexed to the crown of Great Britain, on which connection the intereſt and happineſs of both nations eſſentially depend; but that the kingdom of Ireland was a diſtinct kingdom, with a Parliament of her own, the ſole legiſlature thereof. That there was no body of men competent to make laws to bind that nation, except the King, Lords and Commons of Ireland; nor any other Parliament which had any authority or power of any ſort whatever, in that country, ſave only the Parliament of Ireland. They aſſured his Majeſty, that they humbly conceived, that in this right the very eſſence of their liberty exiſted: it was a right which they, on the part of all the people of Ireland, claimed as their birth-right, and which they could not yield but with their lives. They declared, that they conſidered the claims of the Parliament of Great Britain, in the act paſſed for the better ſecuring the dependency of Ireland, to be irreconcileable to the fundamental rights of that nation, and a great and principal cauſe of the diſcontents and jealouſies in that kingdom. Among the grievances of Ireland, they likewiſe mentioned the perpetual mutiny act, and the practice of ſuppreſſing their bills in the council of Ireland, or altering the ſame any where. They remained, they ſaid, in humble expectation of a redreſs of theſe grievances; and, after the ſtrongeſt expreſſions of regard for the Britiſh people, it declares the determination of Ireland, on partaking the freedom of England, to ſhare her fate, and ſtand or fall with the Britiſh nation.

Theſe proceedings of the Iriſh Parliament occaſioned the utmoſt joy and exultation in that country, and ſo high was the public opinion of the ſervices of Mr. Grattan, the great and eloquent leader of the popular party, that Parliament voted the ſum of 50,000l. for purchaſing an eſtate for that gentleman and erecting an houſe thereon, which were to be ſettled on him and the heirs of his body, as a teſtimony of their gratitude for the unparalleled benefits conferred by him on that kingdom.

On the 18th of May, the Britiſh Houſe of Commons was reſolved into a committee of the whole Houſe, in order to take into conſideration the affairs of Ireland, when the following reſolutions were agreed to *nemine contradicente*:—

Firſt, "That it was the opinion of that Houſe, that the act of the ſixth of George I. entitled, 'An Act for the better ſecuring the Dependency of Ireland upon the Crown of Great 'Britain,' be repealed."

Secondly, "That it was the opinion of that Houſe, that it was indiſpenſable to the intereſt and happineſs of both kingdoms, that the connection between them ſhould be eſtabliſhed by mutual conſent upon a ſolid and permanent footing."

The ſame reſolutions were alſo agreed to on the ſame day in the Houſe of Lords. In conſequence of theſe meaſures, an act was afterwards paſſed, by which the act of the ſixth of George I. was repealed, which was, in fact, a renunciation, on the part of the Britiſh Parliament,

A. D. 1782 liament, of any right to legiſlate in Ireland. The perpetual mutiny bill was alſo repealed in Ireland, and another paſſed of a temporary nature. The appellant juriſdiction of the Britiſh Houſe of Peers in Iriſh cauſes, was likewiſe given up.

On the 27th of the ſame month, the Duke of Portland went in ſtate to the Iriſh Houſe of Peers; and, in a ſpeech to both houſes of Parliament, acquainted them with the ſteps that had been taken by the Britiſh legiſlature, in compliance with their demands: in conſequence of which, both houſes addreſſed the King, expreſſing their perfect ſatisfaction in the meaſures propoſed, and their aſſurances, that as ſoon as they ſhould be carried into effect, no conſtitutional queſtion between the two countries would any longer exiſt.

In return for this liberal proceeding of the Britiſh government, in relinquiſhing its claims, without any ſtipulation or condition whatever, the Parliament of Ireland immediately voted 100,000l. for the purpoſe of raiſing 20,000 Iriſh ſeamen, for the ſervice of his Majeſty's navy.

The affairs of the Eaſt India Company, and the condition of their poſſeſſions, ſtill continued to be a frequent ſubject of parliamentary conſideration and diſcuſſion.—The two committees on Indian affairs continued to ſit during the whole ſeſſion, with unremitting diligence and application: their reports were voluminous beyond all example. On moving that the reports which had been made from the ſecret committee, ſhould be referred to the conſideration of a committee of the whole Houſe, the following information was given on the finances of the Eaſt India Company in the different preſidencies.

It appeared that the revenue of Bombay fell ſhort of its neceſſary civil and military inveſtments 200,000l. annually, which were always drawn from Bengal.—As to the revenue of Madras preſidency, it appeared that, upon an average of twelve years, from the year 1767, to the cloſe of the year 1779, there had been eight years of peace, and four years of war: and during the war, the revenue did not reach to the amount of the civil and military inveſtments; though, in time of peace, there was an exceſs of revenue amounting to nearly one half as much as the expence. Though Bengal, of all the poſſeſſions in India is the moſt fertile and productive, yet ſuch had been the expences of the Mahratta war, that the governor-general had been obliged to contract ſo large a debt, as to make it doubtful whether the inveſtments for England would be wholly or partially ſuſpended. On the ground of the reports brought up from the ſecret committee, their chairman, on the 28th of May, moved 111 reſolutions: theſe were divided into claſſes, each of which conſiſted of three diſtinct heads.—The two firſt, of a public and general nature; the third, of perſonal culpability.

On the 15th of April, both houſes of Parliament received the following meſſage:—"His Majeſty, taking into conſideration the ſupplies which have been given with ſo much liberality, and ſupported with ſuch uncommon firmneſs and fortitude by his people, in the preſent extenſive war, recommends to his faithful Commons, the conſideration of an effectual plan of œconomy through all the branches of the public expenditure; towards which important object, his Majeſty has taken into his actual conſideration a form and regulation in his civil eſtabliſhment, which he will ſhortly cauſe to be laid before this Houſe, deſiring their aſſiſtance towards carrying the ſame more fully into execution. His Majeſty has no reſerves with his people; on whoſe affections he reſts with a ſure reliance, as the beſt ſupport of the true honour and dignity of his crown and government: and as they have hitherto been his beſt reſource upon every emergency, ſo he regards them as the moſt ſolid and ſtable ſecurity for an honourable proviſion for his perſon and family."—This meſſage was followed by the addreſſes uſual on ſuch an occaſion; and, at a ſucceeding period, a bill was brought into Parliament for en-

1782 abling his Majeſty to diſcharge the debt on the civil liſt revenues, and for preventing the ſame from being in arrear for the future, by regulating the mode of payments out of the ſaid revenues, and by ſuppreſſing or regulating certain offices therein mentioned. It was propoſed by this new bill, that the board of trade, the office of third ſecretary of ſtate, with ſeveral other offices, &c. ſhould be aboliſhed; by which various ſavings would be made, to the amount of about 72,368l. per annum.

During the courſe of this ſeſſion, a bill was paſſed for diſqualifying revenue officers from voting at elections. A bill alſo for excluding contractors from being members of the Houſe of Commons, which had been attempted in two former ſeſſions, without ſucceſs, now paſſed both Houſes, and received the royal aſſent.

On the 11th of July Parliament was prorogued:—An ardent deſire of peace, but a determination not to ſubmit to any pacification but on fair and honourable terms, form the ſubſtance of his Majeſty's ſpeech on the occaſion.

While the deſtiny of the North American portion of the Britiſh empire ſeemed to approach to a final deciſion in the weſt, the fate of its immenſe and valuable poſſeſſions in the eaſt hung in ſuſpenſe.—The ſucceſſes obtained over Hyder Ally and his French and Dutch allies were great; but the reſources of that Indian Prince, ſupported by his uncommon abilities, and the aſſiſtance he was to derive from theſe two confederate powers, were matters of ſerious conſideration to Great Britain: for though our affairs in that quarter, at the moment we are deſcribing, had aſſumed a more favourable aſpect, their ſituation ſtill continued alarming and critical. It was impoſſible to forget to what extremities the Britiſh power had been lately reduced in that part of its dominion, and with what difficulty and good fortune it had emerged from them; not only contrary to the expectation of its enemies, but, in a great degree, beyond the hopes of its warmeſt friends. It was natural to ſuppoſe that France would ſtrain every nerve to effectuate its ruin; and it was well known that a powerful French ſquadron was now in the Indian ſeas, prepared to co-operate with the naval ſtrength of Holland for that purpoſe, while Hyder Ally renewed his attacks by land.

In the mean time, the preceding campaign had terminated greatly to the advantage of the Engliſh.—Excluſive of the victories obtained over Hyder Ally in the field, they had concluded by the capture of Negapatnam, the principal ſettlement of the Dutch on the coaſt of Coromandel, which was taken by Sir Edward Hughes and General Monro, after a ſiege of three weeks. The loſs of this place was the ſevereſt blow the Dutch could poſſibly have received in that quarter; and, beſides the intrinſic detriment done to their intereſt, had damped their expectations of ſucceſs, and checked their ardour for enterprize.

While they were under the diſcouraging impreſſions ariſing from ſuch a ſevere and unexpected loſs, Sir Edward Hughes determined to attempt the execution of a plan he had projected againſt Trincomale, in the iſland of Ceylon, one of the moſt important poſſeſſions of Holland in the Indian ocean.

This ſettlement is ſituated on the northern coaſt of that iſland, verging to the eaſt; lying on a ſpacious and ſecure bay, which, with ſeveral others adjoining to it, forms the moſt capacious ſea-port in all India. The ſpices it produces, eſpecially cinnamon, render it, in point of value, one of the richeſt acquiſitions that ever fell into the poſſeſſion of the Dutch nation.

Theſe were ſufficient motives to induce the Britiſh admiral to proceed, with all convenient expedition, againſt a place, the reduction of which would be attended with ſo many and ſuch manifeſt advantages. As ſoon, therefore, as he had weathered out the monſoon, which ſet in imme-

A. D. 1782 immediately after the ſurrender of Negapatnam, he ſet ſail for Trincomale, where he arrived in the very beginning of January in this year.

Having taken poſſeſſion of the principal bay, he landed a detachment of ſeamen, marines, &c. who ſoon maſtered the fort called Trincomale, an object of great importance, as it commanded the chief landing place, and afforded the means of ſetting aſhore whatever might be requiſite for the attack of fort Oſtenburgh, the ſtrongeſt place on the iſland, and by the capture of which the ſettlement would be completely reduced. A detachment of ſailors and marines having taken poſſeſſion of a hill which commanded this fort, Sir Edward Hughes ſent a ſummons of ſurrender to the Dutch governor; who returned for anſwer, that he was bound in duty and honour to defend the fort to the laſt extremity.

The Britiſh admiral, after ſeveral ſubſequent endeavours to prevent an attack by ſtorm, was forced, at length, on the 11th of January, to employ that violent mode of conqueſt; which, however, he tempered with his known humanity, as the victors gave quarter the moment the vanquiſhed demanded it. The acquiſitions made on this occaſion, were two Indiamen richly laden, beſides a number of ſmaller trading veſſels. The fort itſelf was well provided with artillery, and contained a large quantity of ammunition and military ſtores. The priſoners amounted to about 400 Europeans of different denominations.

The capture of Trincomale was the ſecond very ſevere blow given to the Dutch in the Eaſt Indies by Sir Edward Hughes.—It was heavily felt in Holland; where, on receiving intelligence of this loſs, the clamours againſt the war with Great Britain were renewed with augmented violence. The complaint urged on this occaſion with the greateſt vehemence was, that by embracing the cauſe of France, Holland not only ſuſtained very heavy loſſes, but had incurred the greateſt misfortune that could befal an independent ſtate; it was now forced to look up to France for protection, and had thereby forfeited its conſequence in Europe,—diſcovered its internal weakneſs,—and now lay at the mercy not only of the enemy it had made by its ſubmiſſion to the French court, but even at the mercy of the court of France itſelf.

In the mean time, M. De Suffrein, the French admiral, was making the utmoſt expedition to the coaſt of Coromandel, and on the 15th of February he appeared off Madras, with twelve ſhips of the line, including the Hannibal of 50 guns, which he had lately taken, ſix ſtrong frigates, eight large tranſports, full of troops, and ſix Britiſh prizes. The French admiral found Sir Edward Hughes in Madras road, whither he had repaired ſoon after the reduction of Trincomale, to take in ſtores and proviſions, and put his ſick on ſhore. The Engliſh fleet conſiſted of nine ſail of the line. On the 18th, after Sir Edward Hughes had retaken five of the Britiſh prizes, and a French tranſport of 1500 tons, laden with a numerous train of field artillery, and a prodigious quantity of military ſtores, beſides near 300 regular troops, he came to an engagement with the French fleet; which, after being conteſted with great courage on both ſides, terminated with the cloſe of the day. The next morning, the French being no longer viſible, the Engliſh admiral proceeded to Trincomale, to refit.

On the 8th of April, theſe two brave officers came to a ſecond engagement off the iſland of Ceylon, which was continued with equal vigour till late in the evening, without any decided advantage on either ſide. As, ſince the laſt conteſt, the enemy's fleet had been reinforced by two ſhips of the line, in addition to their former ſuperiority, to make an effectual ſtand againſt ſuch a diſproportionate ſtrength, was more honourable, in many caſes, than deciſive victory.

While the Britiſh ſquadron was oppoſing, with ſo much vigour and efficacy, the deſigns of M. De Suffrein on the coaſt of Coromandel, Hyder Ally formed a complete blockade of the Engliſh ſettlement of Tellicherry, on the coaſt of Malabar, in order to reduce it by famine.

A. D.

1782 But early in the morning of the 8th of January, Major Abingdon made a bold, ſpirited, and unexpected attack upon the beſiegers, in their own works, and drove them to their camp: this was aſſaulted alſo with equal ſucceſs; 1500 priſoners taken,—400 ſlain on the ſpot, and a large quantity of proviſions, artillery, ammunition, and military ſtores, with a conſiderable ſum of money, fell into the hands of the victors. This ſucceſs gave the Engliſh entire poſſeſſion of all the territory adjacent to Tellicherry, and opened a communication with the Britiſh poſts in the neighbourhood. It alſo, which was a very important circumſtance, led to an entrance into the principal countries under the dominion of Hyder Ally.

But the ſucceſs of the Britiſh arms in this quarter, was ſhortly retaliated, in a very ſevere manner, on the banks of the Coleroon, a river that bounds the diſtrict of Tanjour to the north. A detachment of 2000 infantry, and about 300 cavalry, from Sir Eyre Coote's army, lay encamped on its banks, for the protection of the Company's poſſeſſions to the ſouth of Madras. This ſmall army, which was commanded by a Colonel Braithwaite, an officer of known bravery and experience, was attacked on the 16th of February in this year, by Tippoo Saib, with an army of 20,000 men, (the flower of his father's army) a proportionate train of artillery, and about 400 French troops, commanded by Monſieur Lally. After three days brave and glorious reſiſtance,—ſurrounded with enemies,—and attacked, on the third, by the reſerved corps of French troops, they were obliged to yield; gaining more reputation by their defence, than the conquerors acquired by their victory.

This unfortunate event on the banks of the Coleroon, revived, in ſome degree, the courage and hopes of Hyder Ally. He alſo received an additional motive of encouragement from the ſucceſs which his forces obtained, in conjunction with the European troops that came from the iſlands of Bourbon and Mauritius, under the command of M. Duchemin. They inveſted Cuddalore, a place of ſufficient ſtrength, and great importance; which being unprovided for any length of defence, ſurrendered on capitulation on the 8th of April: in the ſame manner they beſieged and took Permacoil; after which, being joined by Hyder Ally, at the head of a numerous army, their views were directed to a joint attack upon Vandiwaſh, a place of the greateſt conſequence to the Engliſh at the preſent criſis.

The dangerous ſituation of our affairs in India, had, for a conſiderable time, exerciſed the attention of the ſupreme ſeat of government at Bengal. The principal object, among the various difficulties in which they were involved, was to bring about a ſeparate accommodation with the Mahrattas; the gaining of which point, would enable them to direct their whole ſtrength and efforts againſt Hyder Ally; whom they conſidered, if not a more potent, at leaſt a more implacable enemy.

An opening to a general pacification with the Mahrattas had already been made by a treaty previouſly concluded with Madajee Scindia, one of the moſt conſiderable chiefs of that nation. Through his mediation, terms of reconciliation were at length ſettled between the reſidue of his countrymen and the Engliſh, which were very favourable to the latter. Among other particulars, the former engaged themſelves to oblige Hyder Ally to reſtore to the Engliſh and their allies all the places he had taken from them, &c. &c. But the moſt important article of this treaty was that by which the Mahrattas agreed to permit no other European nation to ſettle factories in any part of their dependencies. As a compenſation for this conceſſion, the Engliſh were bound, on the other hand, to afford no aſſiſtance or countenance whatſoever to any Indian ſtate or nation at enmity with the Mahrattas, &c.

A. D 1782 This negotiation, which was extremely beneficial to the Engliſh, and eſtabliſhed their power and intereſt in India upon the moſt ſecure and permanent foundation, was indebted, in a very great degree, for its ſucceſs, to the talents and activity exerted upon this critical occaſion by Mr. Anderſon, who was deputed by the governor and council of Bengal. It was ſigned by both parties on the 17th of May, 1782, and confirmed at Calcutta on the third of th efollowing month.

The concluſion of this treaty was a ſevere blow to Hyder Ally. He now beheld his formidable enemy freed from that powerful diverſion, which the war with the Mahrattas had occaſioned in his favour: but this was not all;—the very people whoſe alliance had been efficacious in the proſecution of his preſent plan, were now become his enemies, and engaged to co-operate againſt him in defeating it. His dependence on the promiſed aid of the French, had proved to be, in a great meaſure, ill-founded. He was ſufficiently ſagacious and well informed to perceive, that they could not effectually ſupport him but by gaining a decided ſuperiority at ſea; which, with a far ſuperior force, they had not yet been able to obtain: ſo that, notwithſtanding the ſucceſſes of his ſon, Tippoo Saib, he appeared very unwilling to hazard a general action with the Engliſh.

Upon Hyder Ally's moving towards Vandiwaſh, Sir Eyre Coote marched immediately to protect it. The Eaſtern Prince avoided that engagement which the Britiſh General ſo eagerly courted. At length, however, by a well-concerted movement of the latter, Hyder Ally was forced to riſk what he ſeemed ſo much to fear, and, on the ſecond of June, a very deciſive action took place between the two armies; when a complete victory was obtained by the Britiſh troops:—the enemy were entirely routed and put to flight. But the want of cavalry prevented Sir Eyre Coote from purſuing his advantages. From the difficulty of ſubſiſting, the neceſſity of providing for the ſick and wounded, together with the exceſſive heat of the ſeaſon, Sir Eyre Coote moved nearer to Madras, where the increaſing ill ſtate of his health obliged that able officer to relinquiſh the command of the Britiſh forces to General Stuart.

On the 5th of July, another action took place off Negapatnam, between Sir Edward Hughes and M. de Suffrein, in which the former had the advantage,—and had not an unexpected alteration of wind interpoſed, the Engliſh would have gained a moſt complete victory.

After this engagement, the French Admiral withdrew to Cuddalore to refit, and availing himſelf of ſome conſiderable reinforcements both of ſhips and troops, he put to ſea in the beginning of Auguſt in order to make an attempt upon Trincomale. On being informed of his deſign, the Engliſh Admiral ſailed immediately to the relief of that place; but, on his arrival off Trincomale, on the ſecond of September, he found that it had, two days before, ſurrendered to the French arms. On the next day, another engagement took place between the two fleets, wherein the Engliſh ſuſtained their former character. They reſiſted and beat off the enemy, whoſe force was now encreaſed to 15 ſhips of the line, and forced them to the ſhelter of Trincomale Bay. Sir Edward Hughes was obliged to bear away to Madras to refit, from whence the bad weather, on the ſetting in of the monſoon, compelled him to repair to Bombay; but his paſſage to that ſettlement was accompanied with ſuch a continuance of boiſterous weather, as to prevent his arrival there till towards the cloſe of the preſent year. In the mean time, Sir Richard Bickerton, with a ſquadron of five ſhips of the line, was arrived at Bombay. Thus ended the naval campaign in the Eaſt Indies; and with ſome advantages gained over Tippoo Saib by the Britiſh troops on the Malabar coaſt, under the command of Colonel Macleod, the military campaign of 1782 concluded, in the ſame quarter of the globe.

A. D.
1782 We muſt now return to other important objects, which ſolicit our attention, in our own hemiſphere.

The ſieges of Gibraltar and Minorca were ſtill carried on by the united forces of the Houſe of Bourbon, with the utmoſt ſpirit and activity, and both places were defended with unabated firmneſs and obſtinacy by their reſpective garriſons. The courts of Verſailles and Madrid, however they might conſider the reduction of Gibraltar as a matter of doubt, they entertained not the leaſt idea but that Minorca would be very ſhortly reduced. In order to juſtify the expectation of both the French and Spaniſh nations, every poſſible meaſure was taken to give ſucceſs to this enterprize. The army that beſieged the place was little ſhort of 20,000 men, and conſiſted of choſen troops. The battering train amounted to 120 cannon, and 40 mortars of the largeſt dimenſions. The moſt expert engineers in France conducted the attacks, and one of their beſt and braveſt Generals commanded their army. The garriſon, on the other hand, amounted to no more than 2,700 men, and 500 of theſe had been drafted from the corps of invalids in England. The ſtrength of the works they had to defend was of a very ſuperior nature; but they were ſo ſpacious, and in ſuch numbers, as to demand twice the garriſon which now did duty within them. The beſieged, however, did all that could be effected by ſkill, courage, and reſolution; but the ſuperiority with which they had to contend, both in reſpect of numbers and artillery, was ſo great as to put their utmoſt fortitude to the trial. But this was not all, for while the French and Spaniſh army attacked them from without, a far more dreadful and dangerous enemy had taken poſſeſſion of the place within, and committed ſuch ravages among the beſieged, as were far more deſtructive than thoſe they ſuffered from the exertions of the enemy. The communication with the country being entirely cut off, no ſupplies of vegetables could be conveyed to the garriſon, who were conſequently reduced to the neceſſity of ſubſiſting on ſalt proviſions. This, added to other circumſtances, brought on the ſcurvy, which increaſed, in a ſhort time, to ſuch a deplorable degree, as to baffle all endeavours to ſuppreſs or even alleviate its horrid effects. In ſhort, after ſuſtaining with unexampled perſeverance the miſeries of their ſituation, the garriſon was, in the beginning of February in this year, ſo enfeebled, that the number of men able to do duty amounted to no more than 660, which was not a great deal more than was required by the neceſſary guards.

In this extremity, the governor, General Murray, propoſed terms of capitulation, and the moſt honourable were granted to him and his brave garriſon, by a generous and admiring enemy. On the fifth of February, the fortreſs of St. Phillip, after a ſiege of ſix months, was delivered up to the combined forces of France and Spain.

Thus did the iſland of Minorca return to the dominion of Spain, after it had been (except during a ſhort period of the laſt war, when it was taken by the French,) in the poſſeſſion of Great Britain ſince the year 1708, when it was taken by Sir John Leake and General, afterwards Earl, Stanhope, and had, together with Gibraltar, been conſidered as one of the nobleſt trophies, and moſt valuable acquiſitions to Great Britain, during the triumphant reign of Queen Anne.

The loſs of Minorca was accompanied by events which gave a very unpropitious appearance to the commencement of the preſent year. In the preceding November, the iſlands of St. Euſtatius, St. Martin's, and Saba, were ſurprized and taken by the French,—and, on the third of February, 1782, the ſettlements of Demerary and Iſſequibo, on the coaſt of Guiana, were retaken by the ſame power.

But

A. D. 1782 But theſe ſucceſſes, though very mortifying to the Britiſh nation, were ſhortly followed by an attempt of much greater importance. The old and valuable iſland of St. Chriſtopher, was doomed to be the next branch that was to be lopped off from the Britiſh empire. On the 11th of January, in this year, the Marquis de Bouillé landed 8,000 men on the iſland, which was by no means in a condition to make a vigorous defence, the garriſon conſiſting of no more than 600 effective regular troops. The only place of ſtrength in the iſland was Brimſtone-hill, ſituated on the ſhore, near the town of Sandy Point, which it overlooks and commands. Though there were ſome fortifications on the ſummit of the hill, its natural ſtrength was its beſt ſecurity, being of great height, and of ſo difficult acceſs, as to render an aſcent almoſt impracticable againſt a very moderate force to defend it.

On the landing of the French army, which, from the greatneſs of its force, could not be prevented, General Fraſer, the Britiſh commanding officer, retired to Brimſtone-hill. The whole of his ſtrength, beſides the regulars above-mentioned, did not exceed 400 militia, which had been brought to his aſſiſtance by Governor Shirley; and twice the number that compoſed the garriſon was ſcarcely adequate to a proper defence.

Admiral Hood did every thing that capacity and courage could effect to give eſſential relief to the iſland, but in vain; while the defenders of it exerciſed the utmoſt perſeverance and fortitude in their endeavours to preſerve it. During three weeks, the fire of the enemy was inceſſant, till all the conſtructions of every kind upon the hill were deſtroyed, and the garriſon deprived of all ſhelter. In this ſtate of extremity, after a ſiege of five weeks, it was thought neceſſary to capitulate. The garriſon were allowed the honours of war, and the inhabitants were ſecured in the poſſeſſion of their eſtates and property, &c. The reduction of this iſland took place on the 13th of February, in the preſent year. The iſlands of Nevis and Montſerrat ſhared the ill-fortune of St. Chriſtophers, ſo that of all our former numerous poſſeſſions in the Weſt Indies, Jamaica, Barbadoes and Antigua, now alone remained.

On the 19th of the ſame month, Sir George Rodney arrived at Barbadoes with fifteen capital ſhips, where he formed a junction with Sir Samuel Hood, and took upon him the command of the fleet, which now conſiſted of 37 ſhips of the line. The firſt object with the Engliſh Admiral, was to intercept a convoy from Breſt, which was conveying naval ſtores, artillery, ammunition, and other ſupplies to the Count de Graſſe; which, after all, eſcaped the well-concerted plan to intercept it, and arrived ſafe at Martinico.

In conſequence of this diſappointment, Sir George Rodney repaired to St. Lucia, where he took in proviſions for five or ſix months, with a determination to follow the French fleet, the moment it ſailed from Martinico, wherever it ſhould direct its courſe. The deſign of the French Admiral, was to proceed with all diligence to Hiſpaniola, where Don Solano was waiting for him, with ſixteen ſhips of the line and a numerous body of land forces. Theſe, added to the French fleet and troops, were to have formed a joint attack upon the iſland of Jamaica. The great importance of preventing this junction, and of forcing M. de Graſſe to an engagement before it took place, was a moſt important object with the Britiſh Admiral; for till this deſign was effected, the iſlands yet belonging to Great Britain could not be conſidered as in a ſtate of ſecurity.

To the great ſatisfaction of the Britiſh commanders, they were informed, early in the morning of the 8th of April, by the ſignals made from the frigates of obſervation, that the French fleet was getting under way and ſteering to leeward. Sir George Rodney ſtood immediately after the enemy, and came up with them off Dominica towards the evening. Various

manœuvres

A. D. 1782 manœuvres were exerciſed by both fleets during the three following days, and a partial engagement took place between them. Towards the evening of the eleventh, ſome of the headmoſt ſhips of the Britiſh fleet approached ſo near to one of the enemy, which had ſuffered conſiderably in the late action, that it muſt have been inevitably captured, had not M. de Graſſe bore down with his whole fleet, for its preſervation. The movement he made for this purpoſe brought him ſo near the Britiſh fleet, that the Engliſh Admiral conceived immediate hopes of being able to force him to action the next day. With this expectation, he made ſuch diſpoſitions during the night, that it was evident at break of day, it was no longer in the enemy's power to avoid an engagement.

Not a moment was loſt in preparing to engage the enemy. The ſignal for a cloſe line of battle was thrown out, and obeyed with univerſal readineſs by every ſhip in the fleet. The action was commenced about ſeven in the morning by Admiral Drake's diviſion. Our ſhips, as they came up, ranged ſlowly and cloſely along the enemy's line, when they gave and received a moſt tremendous fire. They were ſo near, that every ſhot took place, and the French ſhips being crouded with troops, the carnage in them was prodigious. Some idea may be formed of the havoc that was made, from the Formidable, Sir George Rodney's ſhip, firing near fourſcore broadſides. The engagement had continued with great reſolution on both ſides till about noon, when the Britiſh Admiral perceiving an opportunity of breaking the enemy's line of battle, reſolved to improve it to the utmoſt of his power. He accordingly bore down upon the enemy's center with impetuous bravery, being ſeconded by three ſhips, and ſucceſsfully broke through it. He was followed by the remainder of his diviſion, and wearing round cloſe upon the enemy, effectually ſeparated their line, and threw them into inextricable confuſion. This bold and unexpected motion decided the fortune of the day. The French, however, continued ſtill to fight with the utmoſt bravery, and the battle laſted till ſun ſet; which, in thoſe latitudes, is almoſt ſucceeded by darkneſs.

Since the famous battle of La Hogue, in the year 1692, the French had not ſuſtained ſuch a complete and ruinous defeat as on this memorable day. Their fleet was almoſt ruined, and their loſs of men amounted to an abſolute carnage. The number of thoſe who were actually ſlain in this engagement, was computed at 3,000, and the wounded at near twice that number. The whole loſs of killed and wounded in the Britiſh fleet did not exceed 1,100.

The loſs of ſhipping on the part of the enemy amounted to five taken, viz. one of 110, three of 74, and one of 64 guns: another of their line was ſunk in the engagement. But the ſhip, the loſs of which affected the French with more than common concern, was the Ville de Paris. She had been a preſent from the city of Paris to Louis XV. and is ſaid to have coſt 176,000l. ſterling; ſhe carried 110 guns, and had on board, at her departure from Martinico, 1,300 men, including marines and land troops. Thirty-ſix cheſts of money, deſtined for the pay and ſubſiſtence of the troops in the propoſed invaſion of Jamaica, were found in this ſhip. It was a ſingular inſtance of good fortune, that the whole train of artillery, with the battering cannon and travelling carriages, intended for the attack on Jamaica, happened to be on board the ſhips which were now taken.

The flying enemy were cloſely purſued by Commodore Affleck and the ſhips in company with him: he kept up a vigorous fire upon them, and continued the chace till night. On the morning of the next day they were no longer to be ſeen. As ſoon as it was light Admiral Rodney prepared for an immediate purſuit, but was prevented by a calm, which laſted three days. When it was aſcertained that the enemy had ſailed to leeward, Sir Admiral Hood's

diviſion

A. D. 1782 diviſion was diſpatched in ſearch of them; and on the next day after leaving the fleet, he diſcovered five of the enemy's ſhips making towards the Mona Paſſage, between the eaſt end of Hiſpaniola and the iſland of Porto Rico. After a ſhort engagement, two ſhips of 64 guns and two frigates ſtruck to the Britiſh flag. Sir Samuel Hood joined the fleet off Cape Tiberoon, and Sir George Rodney proceeded with the diſabled ſhips and the prizes to Jamaica, as well for the purpoſe of refitting, as for the greater preſervation of the iſland, if the combined enemy ſhould ſtill venture to make any attempt towards the proſecution of their former deſign.

In this manner were fruſtrated the deſigns of France and Spain in this part of the world: the firſt were now deprived of almoſt all the means they had prepared for the execution of them. Beſides the loſs of eight of their capital ſhips, and the ſhattered condition of many of the reſt, they had loſt the whole train of artillery belonging to their troops, and the military cheſt for the payment of them: ſo that, had they been inclined to perſiſt in the purſuit of their undertakings, they muſt, in a great meaſure, have depended on the reſources of their Spaniſh allies: but the latter was ſo affected by the late diſaſter, that they did not ſeem in the leaſt diſpoſed to exert any vigour towards a reparation of it. They ſhortly after returned to the Havannah, purſuing no other meaſures, for the preſent, but ſuch as were requiſite for their own ſafety.

This great and glorious naval victory not only ſecured our remaining poſſeſſions in the Weſt Indies, but may be ſaid to have cloſed the war in that part of the globe. It was ſtill of greater importance in its general effects, from the ſudden and unexpected change it produced in our ſituation,—from the high reputation which ſuch an extraordinary and ſucceſsful exertion afforded, and by the additional weight it gave us as a nation, whether for the further proſecution of the war or the accompliſhment of peace.

North America afforded no military tranſaction of any conſequence during this period.—The oppoſite armies at New York and its neighbourhood, were ſo nearly balanced with reſpect to force, and to the ſtrength of their reſpective poſts and defences, that little or no opportunity offered for enterprize on either ſide. This ſtate of inactivity was happily confirmed by the reſolutions of the Britiſh Parliament againſt the American war.

The Empreſs of Ruſſia having offered her mediation in order to reſtore peace between Great Britain and Holland, Mr. Fox, then Secretary of State, wrote a letter to Monſieur Simolin, the Ruſſian miniſter in London, dated March 29, informing him, that his Majeſty was ready to enter into a negociation, for the purpoſe of ſetting on foot a treaty of peace, on the terms and conditions of that which was agreed to in 1674, between his Majeſty and the republic of Holland; and that in order to facilitate ſuch a treaty, he was willing to give immediate orders for a ſuſpenſion of hoſtilities, if the States General were diſpoſed to agree to that meaſure. In another letter, dated May 4, in anſwer to one he had received from the Ruſſian miniſter, Mr. Secretary Fox took notice of the late change in his Majeſty's councils, and obſerved, that his Majeſty was willing to allow to the Dutch the entire liberty of navigation, according to the treaty of 1674, between Great Britain and the Republic; a treaty, by which the principles of the armed neutrality were eſtabliſhed, in their wideſt extent, to all the contracting parties; and that his Majeſty would accept, as the baſis of a ſeparate peace between him and the States General, a free navigation, according to the principles demanded by her Imperial Majeſty, in her declaration of the 28th of February, 1780.

It would have been highly advantageous to Great Britain, at this time, to have made a ſeparate peace with Holland, or even to obtain a ceſſation of hoſtilities with that power, as a preliminary ſtep towards a pacification; but the French and American influence prevailed too

1782 much in the councils of the United States, to expect any thing leſs than a refuſal to acquieſce in the terms propoſed by the mediation of her Imperial Majeſty. Even while this negotiation was agitating, Mr. Adams was received by their High Mightineſſes in quality of Miniſter Plenipotentiary of the United States of North America.

The Dutch, who ſeem to have been deſtined to ſuffer in every part of their dominions for the ill-judged, and what may be called unnatural, part which they took in this war, were, about the ſame time, deprived of moſt of their ſettlements on the coaſt of Africa, by Captain Shirley, in the Leander of 50 guns; who, without any land forces, and with the aſſiſtance only of the Alligator ſloop of war, took Acra, with four other Dutch forts, mounting altogether 124 pieces of cannon; and to complete their ruin on that coaſt, Lieutenant Cartwright, of the Argo frigate, having landed with a detachment of ſeamen, to ſupport ſome land forces which were under the direction of the African Company, had a principal ſhare in taking the ſtrong and well garriſoned Dutch fort of Commenda.

On the other hand, M. de Vaudreuil, ſome time before his departure, with the remainder of the beaten fleet, from Cape François to North America, concerted an expedition, merely prædatory, againſt the remote poſſeſſions and property of the Hudſon's Bay Company. M. de la Perouſe was appointed to command a ſmall ſquadron properly equipped for this purpoſe.— He ſailed from Cape François on the 31ſt of May, and did not arrive at the iſlands of Reſolution, which mark the entrance of Hudſon's Straits, till the 27th of July. After encountering the known difficulties and dangers of the voyage, they arrived on the 8th within ſight of Port Prince of Wales, upon the Churchill river. The Company poſſeſs ſix of thoſe buildings, which are called Forts, in Hudſon's Bay, being in reality factories, erected at the mouths of the principal rivers; the buildings are neceſſarily ſtrong, as well to guard againſt the climate as againſt other dangers, and are furniſhed with artillery to command reſpect from the different nations of the ſavages, who come from the remoteſt parts to diſpoſe of their furs and peltry; but they had not a ſingle ſoldier in all theſe forts; and the whole number of ſtorekeepers, clerks, and ſervants of every denomination, which the Company maintain at ſo many ſtations, does not exceed 120 perſons. The enemy, therefore, landed without oppoſition, and deſtroyed the ſettlements, forts, merchandize, &c. to the amount of about 500,000l. ſterling. Having committed this commercial miſchief, the French commanders, in the beginning of September, ſet ſail for Europe. Some ſucceſſes on the Muſquito Shore, were all that Great Britain had to counterbalance this loſs in the northern extremity of America. The Spaniards had taken poſſeſſion of ſome places in the Bay of Honduras and on the Muſquito ſhore, and had made repeated attempts upon the Engliſh logwood cutters and ſettlers there: but the baymen, aſſiſted by the negroes, retook ſome of them with great valour. A little army was formed, in conjunction with the Indians in thoſe parts, whoſe enmity to the Spaniards has been hereditary ever ſince the diſcovery of America, commanded by Colonel Deſpard, who attacked and carried the poſts on the Black River, where they made about 800 of the Spaniſh troops priſoners of war.

In the beginning of May, the Bahama Iſlands were inveſted by Don Juan Manuel de Cagigal, Governor of the Havannah, with three frigates and ſixty ſail of tranſports, on board of which were 2,500 troops: as theſe iſlands were incapable of making any material defence, they were ſurrendered by capitulation on the 8th of that month.

The ſiege of Gibraltar ſtill continued to be carried on with unabated vigour. It had now laſted three years, and all Europe was in ſuſpence as to the manner in which it would be concluded.

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To the army already encamped before the place, a body of 12,000 choice troops from France was now added. The corps of engineers was the beſt that France and Spain could furniſh;—Princes of the blood of France, and perſons of the firſt families and moſt diſtinguiſhed name in both kingdoms, appeared as volunteers to aid the ſtupendous attack that was now preparing.

The 13th of September was the day deſtined to decide the fate of Gibraltar. Early in the morning the floating batteries came forward, and about ten were anchored in a line at about 1,000 yards from the ſhore. As ſoon as they were properly arranged they began an heavy cannonade, and were ſeconded by all the cannon and mortars in the enemies lines and approaches. At the ſame inſtant the garriſon opened all its batteries, both with hot and cold ſhot from the guns, and ſhells from the howitzers and mortars. This terrible fire continued, without intermiſſion on either ſide, till noon, when the beſieged began to perceive their ſuperiority. About two o'clock in the afternoon, the principal of the floating batteries appeared to be on fire, and before that time on the ſucceeding morning the whole of them were in flames, and ſoon conſumed.

The loſs ſuſtained by the enemy, though induſtriouſly concealed, muſt have been very great, while the detriment received by the garriſon, in theſe various attempts of the enemy, was very inconſiderable indeed. It was now evident, that the fortreſs of Gibraltar was impregnable when defended by Britiſh ſoldiers. General Elliot, by his ſuperior conduct, added another leaf to the wreath of Britiſh glory.

Still, however, another difficulty remained to be overcome, before Gibraltar could be conſidered as in a ſtate of ſecurity. Notwithſtanding the failure of their late attempt, the enemy were not without hope, that, from the want of ammunition and proviſions, the garriſon would at length be compelled to ſurrender. But they were deſtined to meet with nothing but diſappointment in the ſiege of this fortreſs: for ſuch diligence was exerted at home, that Lord Howe was enabled to ſet ſail from Portſmouth about the middle of September, with 34 ſhips of the line, &c. for the relief of Gibraltar. This grand object he ſucceſsfully effected on the 28th of October, in the very teeth of the combined fleets, which amounted to 46 line of battle ſhips. On the 20th, a partial action took place at the Straits mouth between the two fleets,—when, the enemy avoiding the opportunity they had of coming to a general engagement, and the Britiſh Admiral having ſucceeded in throwing the neceſſary ſuccours into Gibraltar, which was the grand object of his enterprize, returned to England, and received, as he well deſerved, the thanks of both Houſes of Parliament for the important ſervice of that expedition.

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"Article I. There ſhall ſubſiſt between her Imperial Majeſty of all the Ruſſias, her heirs and ſucceſſors to the throne, of the one part, and his Majeſty the King of Denmark, his heirs and ſucceſſors to the throne, of the other part, as alſo between their ſtates, kingdoms, provinces, cities, and ſubjects, to perpetuity, a laſting peace, familiarity and good underſtanding; and in virtue of this concord, as well the ſaid two powers as their ſubjects, without exception, ſhall afford mutually, on all occaſions, and particularly that which concerns commerce and navigation, all the aid and aſſiſtance poſſible in diſplaying for this purpoſe all the zeal of friends and good neighbours, and without ever hazarding any thing that can turn to the prejudice or detriment of either of the parties.

"II. Perfect liberty of conſcience ſhall be granted to the ſubjects of the two nations in their reſpective ſtates, and, conſequently, they ſhall have free liberty to exerciſe the duties of their religion in their own houſes, in buildings, or churches, deſtined or permitted for that purpoſe by government, without being troubled or moleſted on any account whatever.

"III. The ſubjects of Ruſſia in Denmark, or the ſubjects of Denmark in Ruſſia, ſhall be conſtantly regarded and treated as the moſt favoured nations: and the two high contracting parties engage, between them, to grant to their reſpective ſubjects all the accommodation and aſſiſtance, and all the commercial advantages which can naturally ariſe from ſuch a preference, in order, as much as poſſible, to extend and raiſe to a flouriſhing ſtate the commerce of the ſubjects of Ruſſia in Denmark, and of the ſubjects of Denmark in Ruſſia; provided, nevertheleſs, that in all caſes where the preſent treaty ſhall not ſtipulate ſome exemption or privilege in favour of the two nations, or of ſome one in particular, the Ruſſian or Daniſh merchants ſhall ſubmit in their trade or traffic to the tariff or cuſtom book, ordinances, and laws of the country in which they ſhall be ſettled.

"IV. It ſhall be permitted to the ſubjects of each of the allied powers in the ſtates of the other, to navigate, ſell, and tranſport freely by water and by land, in all the ports, cities, and roads of the two countries, all merchandize of which the coming in and going out is not prohibited, on payment, however, of the cuſtoms and preſcribed rights in each place, and upon conforming thereto in the ſame manner as the veſſels and carriages laden with the like tranſports of merchandizes do to the laws eſtabliſhed in the place where ſuch commerce ſhall be carried on. Her Imperial Majeſty of all the Ruſſias excepts only from the aforeſaid permiſſion, her ports of the Black Sea, of the Caſpian Sea, and her other poſſeſſions in Aſia; and his Daniſh Majeſty excepts only his poſſeſſions in America, and the other eſtabliſhments which he poſſeſſes out of Europe.

"V. The commercial ſubjects of the two high contracting parties ſhall pay for their merchandizes the cuſtoms or duties fixed in the reſpective ſtates by the cuſtom-rate books, according to the preſent or future regulations. And her Imperial Majeſty of all the Ruſſias is ſatisfied, that ſhe gives his Daniſh Majeſty a moſt convincing proof of the eſteem in which ſhe holds his Majeſty, in the favour and preference which ſhe profeſſes in future to give to the Daniſh ſubjects in her dominions, in granting them permiſſion to diſcharge the duties or cuſtoms in the current money of the country, without being ſubject, as heretofore, to pay the ſame in rixdollars, valuing the rixdollar at 124 copecks current money of Ruſſia; except, nevertheleſs, the ports of Livonia, Eſtonia, and Finland, which have particular cuſtoms and privileges to which the preſent treaty is not to extend.

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" VI. As a reciprocal return for the advantages granted by the preceding article in favour of the commercial ſubjects of Denmark, his Daniſh Majeſty, wiſhing to benefit the trade of the ſubjects of Ruſſia in his ſtates, agrees, by the preſent treaty, to grant them the following advantages :—

" 1. That the Ruſſian leaf tobacco, known in Europe under the name of *Ukraine tobacco*, through the paſſage of the Sound, ſhall pay, in future, only eight ſtivers for ten pounds of the weights of Ruſſia.

" 2. That ſuch merchandizes as are valued or eſtimated by the rate of the laſt, or by weight and meaſure, ſhall be examined and taxed in paſſing the Sound, according to the laſts, meaſures, and weights actually uſed in the places and ports of the Ruſſian empire from whence ſuch merchandizes ſhall be cleared out.

" 3. That the pieces of Riga timber, known under the name of *Surren Balden*, which are five, ſix, ſeven, eight, and nine fathoms in length, ſhall pay for their paſſage through the Sound, for twenty pieces, two and a half reichs-orts (about 2s. 9¾d. ſterling) ; and thoſe of the length of from four to one fathom, and leſs, ſhall be reduced to the duty and to the meaſure of the pieces of from nine to five fathoms in length, and ſhall pay the cuſtoms of the Sound according to that reduction made on the meaſure of the great pieces.

" 4. That the *Vedaſſe*, or *Veidaſſe*, ſhall be paid at the rate of a dozen ſtivers the laſt, which ſhall contain twelve tons of the ſize of thoſe now in uſe at Riga.

" VII. And, moreover, his Daniſh Majeſty, accuſtomed to favour the intereſts of the empire of Ruſſia, as thoſe of an ancient friend and ally of his crown, will permit the ſubjects of Ruſſia to enjoy, throughout the Sound, an equal treatment with the nations the moſt favoured of Denmark, in requiring only *one* per cent. for all merchandizes of which mention is not made in the tariff or cuſtom-book.

" VIII. The veſſels and merchandizes which belong to the ſubjects of Ruſſia ſhall not be ſearched in paſſing the Sound ; but with reſpect to the tolls or cuſtoms to be paid for ſuch ſhips and merchandizes, credit ſhall be given to the certificates and paſſports, in due form, with which ſuch veſſels ſhall be furniſhed from the magiſtrate or cuſtom-houſe of the place from whence they ſhall have cleared out, without requiring any further explanation reſpecting the merchandize which compoſes the cargoes of ſuch veſſels, and giving full faith and credit to the contents of ſuch letters and paſſports with reſpect to weight, meaſure, quality, and packages ; provided, nevertheleſs, that if any fraud ſhall appear committed on this account, meaſures ſhall be taken, on the firſt requiſition, for the purpoſe of remedying the ſame, and preventing the like in future.

" IX. The cuſtom-houſe of the Sound, in acquitting the payment of duties, ſhall, at every time, be obliged to give the ſpecific detail of duties received on each piece of merchandize, in order that it may be verified and clearly aſcertained if any thing ſhall have been exacted too much ; and the ſaid cuſtom-houſe ſhall not be permitted to depart from this uſage, unleſs the captains of veſſels, to accelerate their voyage, ſhould content themſelves with an acquittal in the groſs of duties paid for the whole of their cargoes.

" X. The Ruſſian trading ſhips, after having paid the tolls or duties of the Sound, whether upon entering the Baltic ſea, or that having gone out thereof, ſhould they be obliged by tempeſt, contrary winds, or otherwiſe, to return to the Sound, ſhall not be any longer liable to pay the ſaid duties a ſecond time.

" XI. An exemption of port duties, and generally of all others, ſhall be granted to Ruſſian veſſels which ſhall paſs before the fort of Glûkſtat, and other places which belong to Denmark on the Elbe, ſo that theſe veſſels, in going and coming, ſhall not be ſearched, detained, or diſturbed, unleſs that in time of war there ſhould be ſtrong and ſpecific reaſons to ſuſpect them of carrying contraband articles to the enemy.

" XII. As often as the ſubjects of Ruſſia or Denmark, by tempeſts, or to avoid the purſuit of ſome pirate, or other unavoidable accident, ſhall be obliged to take refuge in the ports of the reſpective ſtates, they ſhall refit and provide themſelves with all things neceſſary, and put to ſea in free liberty, without ſubmitting to the leaſt ſearch, or the payment of any port fees, or other duties whatſoever; on condition, however, that during their ſtay they ſhall take nothing out of their veſſels, nor expoſe any merchandize to ſale, and that they ſhall conform, in all things, to the laws, ſtatutes, and cuſtoms of the place or port into which they ſhall ſo enter.

" XIII. No ſhip, whether a merchant-man or ſhip of war, belonging to the ſubjects of one of the allied powers, nor any perſon belonging thereto, ſhall be liable to be ſtopped, nor ſhall the merchandizes be ſeized in the ports of the other. But this is, nevertheleſs, not to extend to ſeizures or legal arreſts on account of perſonal debts contracted in that country by the proprietors of any ſuch veſſels or cargoes; in which caſes, the proceedings ſhall be according to the laws and judicial forms of the country; and in caſe of perſonal delinquency, it is clearly underſtood, that every one ſhall be ſubject to the puniſhments eſtabliſhed by the laws of the country where the ſhip or veſſel ſhall then be.

" XIV. No ſhip or tranſport whatever belonging to the one power, ſhall be forced by the other to ſerve in war againſt their will.

" XV. If the veſſels of the ſubjects of the two contracting powers ſhould run aground, or be wrecked on the coaſts of either the one or the other, their reſpective ſubjects ſhall be entitled, as well for themſelves as for their veſſels and effects, to all poſſible ſuccour and aſſiſtance, the ſame as the inhabitants of the country themſelves; paying, nevertheleſs, the ſame charges and cuſtoms to which the proper ſubjects of the ſtate are in like caſes ſubject, on the coaſts where they ſhall be ſo aground or wrecked.

" XVI. When one of the two contracting powers ſhall be at war with the other ſtates, the communication and free commerce of the ſubjects of the other with ſuch ſtates, ſhall not be interrupted; and it is to the contrary, in this caſe, that the two crowns, intimately convinced of the wiſdom of principles, which, for the general good of all commercial people, have been fixed and decreed in the *Maritime Convention* between them at Copenhagen, the $\frac{28}{9}$th of June and July, 1780, declare their determination to make them the unalterable rule of their conduct, and to have recourſe to them on every occaſion, as to laws and ſtipulations which merit a diſtinguiſhed rank in the code of humanity.

" XVII. In conſequence whereof they here immediately apply to themſelves the four important axioms, which, in caſe of war, have been eſtabliſhed in favour of the rights of all neutral powers in general, viz.

" 1. That all veſſels ſhall have liberty to navigate freely from one port to another, and on the coaſts of nations at war.

" 2. That the property of all the ſubjects to the ſaid powers ſhall, in time of war, be free in all neutral veſſels, excepting goods which are contraband.

“ 3. That in order to determine that which characterizes a blocked port, none ſhall be ſo denominated, but where the approach of the aſſailing power is ſo near, and ſo ſituated, that there muſt be evident danger in entering it.

“ 4. That neutral veſſels ſhall not be ſtopped but upon juſt cauſes, founded on the moſt clear facts; that they ſhall have judgment without delay; that the proceedings ſhall be always uniform, expeditious, and legal; and that at all times, beſides the recompence which ſhall be made to thoſe who ſhall have ſuffered loſs without having been in fault, a complete ſatisfaction ſhall be made for the inſult given to the reſpective flags.

“ XVIII. The trading veſſels of the reſpective ſubjects, navigating alone, and which ſhall be met with either coaſting, or in the open ſea, by the ſhips of war, or other armed veſſels of either of the two contracting powers engaged in a war with any other powers, ſhall ſubmit to be ſearched; but, at the ſame time that the ſaid merchant-ſhips ſhall be prohibited from throwing any papers overboard, the ſhips of war or privateers aforeſaid, ſhall, on their part, remain conſtantly beyond the diſtance of gun-ſhot from ſuch merchant-ſhips; and entirely to prevent all diſorder and violence, it is agreed, that ſuch ſhips of war or other armed veſſels, ſhall never ſend off more than two or three men in their chaloupes, to go on board them, to examine their paſſports and papers which contain a ſtate of the property and commiſſions of the veſſels; but ſuppoſing, nevertheleſs, that ſuch merchant veſſels are found eſcorted by one or more ſhips of war, the ſimple declaration of the officer commanding the eſcort, that the veſſels carry nothing contraband, ſhall be looked upon as fully ſufficient, and no farther ſearch ſhall take place.

“ XIX. As ſoon as it has been made to appear, by the documents produced, or by the verbal aſſurance of the officer commanding the eſcort, that the merchant-ſhips ſo met at ſea are not laden with contraband, they ſhall be free to continue their route, without any further hinderance; and thoſe ſhips of war or privateers, on one part or the other, who ſhall, notwithſtanding, moleſt or damage, in any manner whatever, the ſhips in queſtion, ſhall be obliged to anſwer for it in their perſons and property, beſides the reparation due for the inſult given to the flag.

“ XX. That if, on the contrary, a veſſel, on being ſearched, ſhall be detected with contraband goods on board, the cheſts, trunks, bales, and caſks which ſhall be ſo found in the ſame veſſel, ſhall not be broken, nor the leaſt part of the merchandizes diſturbed; but the captor ſhall have a right to bring the ſaid veſſel into port, where, after commencing his legal proceſs before the judge of the admiralty, according to the eſtabliſhed rules and laws, and after that definitive ſentence ſhall have been paſſed, the prohibited goods or merchandize, or ſuch as ſhall be pronounced to be contraband, ſhall be confiſcated, whilſt the other effects and merchandizes which were found with them in the ſame ſhip, ſhall be reſtored, without either the veſſel or effects being liable to be detained under pretence of coſts, damage, or penalties.

“ During the continuance of the proceſs, the captain, after having delivered the goods taken for contraband, ſhall not be obliged, againſt his will, to wait for the concluſion of the proceſs, but may put to ſea with the veſſel and the reſt of his cargo, whenever he ſhall think proper:—And in caſe that a veſſel of one of the two powers, being at peace, ſhall be ſeized, in open ſea, by a man of war or privateer of the other power, being at war, and ſhall be laden with merchandize, acknowledged for contraband, the maſter of ſuch merchant veſſel ſhall be at liberty, if he thinks proper, to abandon immediately ſuch contraband merchandize to his captor, who ſhall be obliged to content himſelf with ſuch *voluntary abandonment*, without retaining, mo-

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" XXI. The following articles *only* are thoſe which ſhall be underſtood to come under the denomination of contraband, viz. cannons, mortars, fire-arms, piſtols, bombs, grenades, fuſees, flints, matches, gunpowder, ſaltpetre, ſulphur, cuiraſſes, pikes, ſwords, belts, cartouches, ſaddles and bridles; excepting, at all times, the quantity which is neceſſary for the defence of the ſhip and ſhip's company; and all other articles whatſoever, which are not here named, ſhall not be reputed ammunitions of war, or naval ſtores, nor be liable to confiſcation, and, conſequently, ſhall paſs freely, without being ſubject to the leaſt moleſtation.

" XXII. Although, by the twenty-firſt article of this treaty, all articles of contraband are found clearly ſpecified, and determined in ſuch a manner, that all merchandize not therein expreſsly named, ought to be reputed free and ſecure from ſeizure, nevertheleſs, her Imperial and his Daniſh Majeſty, knowing the difficulties which have ariſen during the preſent maritime war, touching the liberty which the neutral nations ought to enjoy in buying veſſels belonging to the belligerent powers, or to their ſubjects, have judged proper, in order to remove all doubt which might poſſibly ariſe on this matter, to ſtipulate, that in caſe of a war between one of them with any other power whatſoever, the ſubjects of the other contracting party which ſhall remain in peace, ſhall be at liberty to purchaſe of the ſubjects, or cauſe to be conſtructed in ports of the power at war with the other contracting party, as many veſſels as they ſhall think proper, without being ſubject to any difficulty on the part of ſuch power, or of its privateers; provided, nevertheleſs, that ſuch veſſels be provided with all neceſſary documents to aſcertain the property, and its legal acquiſition, to be in the ſubjects of the neutral power.

" XXIII. It is alſo agreed between them, that the ſubjects of any power at war with either of them, who ſhall be found in their ſervice, and thoſe who ſhall be naturalized, or ſhall have acquired the right of denization, even during the war, ſhall not be looked upon or treated on any other footing than the ſubjects born in their reſpective ſtates.

" XXIV. As each of the two contracting powers may, for the advantage of the commerce of their ſubjects, appoint conſuls in the ſtates of their reſpective dominions reciprocally, it is mutually agreed between them, that the reſpective ſubjects ſhall, in all their proceſſes among them, and other lawſuits, by the proper conſent and agreement of the parties, have recourſe to the judgment of their reſpective conſuls; and that not only the deciſions of their ſaid conſuls ſhall be perfectly valid and legal, but in order to enforce the execution of their determinations, they ſhall alſo, in caſes of neceſſity, call in the power and aſſiſtance of the tribunals of the place. But whenever the parties in diſpute will not have recourſe to the authority of their own conſuls, they ſhall make application to the ordinary tribunals of the country where they ſhall then be; which tribunals ſhall be attentive to render them the moſt expeditious and moſt ſtrict juſtice, according to the laws and regulations eſtabliſhed by thoſe tribunals; and, in either caſe, the reſpective ſubjects may chuſe, to plead or conduct their cauſe, ſuch counſellors, attornies, or notaries, as they ſhall think proper, provided they be duly recognized as ſuch by the government, or the courts eſtabliſhed for that purpoſe.

" XXV. The aforeſaid conſuls, in quality of officers of a friendly and allied power, ſhall have power likewiſe, with the conſent of the two high contracting parties, to ſettle the diſputes, and finally decide between merchants of their reſpective nations; but in all caſes which concern their own particular affairs, they ſhall not be the leſs ſubordinate themſelves to the laws and tribunals of the country where they ſhall be eſtabliſhed.

" XXVI. When

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" XXVI. When the Ruſſian and Daniſh merchants ſhall enter in the cuſtom-houſe their contracts or bargains for ſale or purchaſe of merchandizes by their clerks, ſupercargoes, or other agents employed by them, the cuſtom-houſe of Ruſſia, in which thoſe contracts ſhall be regiſtered, ſhall examine carefully if thoſe who contract for the account of their principals, are furniſhed by them with full powers, made in good and ſufficient form; in which caſe, the ſaid principals ſhall be reſponſible for the ſame as if they had contracted in perſon. But if the ſaid ſupercargoes or agents, employed by the aforeſaid merchants, are not provided with orders or ſufficient powers, they ought not to be credited on their word: and although the cuſtom-houſes may be charged with the care of this object, the parties themſelves who contract ſhall not be the leſs bound to take care, that the grants, bargains, or contracts, that may be ſo made, ſhall not exceed the powers which have been entruſted to them by their principals, as the latter are only bound to anſwer for the object and value for which the powers were given by them. The cuſtom-houſes of Denmark ſhall obſerve the ſame conduct with reſpect to the contracts, purchaſes, and ſales, between the Ruſſian and Daniſh merchants in the ſtates of his Daniſh Majeſty.

" XXVII. All poſſible ſupport ſhall be given to the reſpective ſubjects, againſt thoſe amongſt themſelves who ſhall not fulfil the engagements of contracts made according to the forms preſcribed, and regiſtered at the cuſtom-houſe; and, for this purpoſe, government, on both ſides, ſhall employ, in caſe of neceſſity, all authority and aſſiſtance requiſite to compel the appearance of the parties before the proper tribunals of the place where ſuch contracts ſhall have been made and regiſtered, and alſo to oblige the contractors to the ſpecific performance thereof.

" XXVIII. The Daniſh merchants eſtabliſhed in Ruſſia ſhall pay for the merchandizes which they ſhall buy, in the ſame current money of Ruſſia that they ſhall have received for their merchandizes ſold, unleſs that in their contracts or agreements made between the buyer and ſeller, it may have been ſtipulated to the contrary. The Ruſſian merchants eſtabliſhed in the ſtates of Denmark ſhall enjoy reciprocally the ſame advantage.

" XXIX. The neceſſary mutual precautions ſhall be taken, that the ſorting the merchandizes may be truſted to perſons of known intelligence and probity, to the end that the reſpective ſubjects may, by that means, be guarded againſt an improper choice of merchandizes and fraudulent packages; and whenever there ſhall be ſufficient proofs of treſpaſs, negligence, or of bad faith in the exerciſe of the duty of their offices, they ſhall be reſponſible, and obliged to make good all loſſes incurred by their fault.

" XXX. The reſpective ſubjects ſhall have full liberty, at the reſpective places of reſidence, to keep books of trade or commerce, in whatever language they think proper, without any preſcription or reſtraint on that account; and it ſhall not be required of them to produce their books of accounts or of commerce, unleſs to juſtify themſelves in caſe of bankruptcy or proceſs at law; but in this laſt caſe, they ſhall not be obliged to preſent or ſhew more than the articles neceſſary to the eclairciſſement of the affair in queſtion.

" XXXI. If it ſhould happen, that a ſubject of Ruſſia, in the ſtates of Denmark, or a ſubject of Denmark, in the ſtates of Ruſſia, ſhould become a bankrupt, without having acquired the right of denizen or citizen, the creditors, under authority of the magiſtrates of each place, ſhall name truſtees, to whom all the effects, books, and papers of him who ſhall have become a bankrupt ſhall be entruſted; and then the creditors who ſhall have claims to two-thirds of the ſtock, if they vote in favour of any arrangement whatever concerning the diſtri-

1782 bution of this ſtock, their ſuffrages ſhall have ſufficient power over the other creditors, who ſhall be obliged to ſubmit to their arrangement: but with reſpect to the ſubjects of the reſpective ſtates who ſhall be naturalized, or ſhall have acquired the right of citizen in the ſtates of the other contracting party, they ſhall ſubmit, in caſe of bankruptcy, (as in all other affairs) to the laws, ordinances, and ſtatutes of the country where they ſhall be naturalized.

" XXXII. The Daniſh merchants eſtabliſhed in Ruſſia, ſhall be permitted to build, to buy, ſell, and hire houſes in all the cities of this empire, (Ruſſia) which have not rights and privileges contrary to theſe acquiſitions; and it is ſpecifically agreed, that at St. Peterſburg, Moſcow, and Archangel, the houſes poſſeſſed and inhabited by the Daniſh merchants, ſhall be exempt from lodgement or the quartering of troops or ſoldiers, ſo long as the houſes belong to, or are actually occupied by themſelves; but the houſes which they ſhall let, or take to hire, ſhall not be ſo exempted. In all the other cities of the empire of Ruſſia, the houſes bought or built by Daniſh merchants, who ſhall eſtabliſh themſelves there, ſhall not enjoy the exemptions granted, only in the three cities above ſpecified. If, neverthleſs, it ſhall be judged proper, in the courſe of time, to make a general order to take a pecuniary commutation for the proviſion of quarters, the Daniſh merchants ſhall be ſubject to it as well as others.

" His Daniſh Majeſty engages reciprocally, that the Ruſſian merchants eſtabliſhed in his ſtates, ſhall enjoy the ſame exemptions and privileges which are granted by this preſent article to the Daniſh merchants eſtabliſhed in Ruſſia, and on the ſame conditions as above ſpecified.

" XXXIII. Thoſe of the reſpective ſubjects who ſhall be inclined to quit the provinces, cities, and ſtates of either of the contracting powers, ſhall not experience any hinderance on the part of government; but they ſhall have granted them, with the accuſtomed precautions of each place, the neceſſary paſſports, entitling them to go and take away freely all property which they may have brought or acquired there, after having firſt paid their debts, and the dues and duties appointed by the laws, ordinances, and ſtatutes of the reſpective ſtates.

" XXXIV. Although the right of eſcheat does not exiſt in the ſtates of the two contracting powers, it is, nevertheleſs, agreed between them, to prevent all doubts which may ariſe thereupon, that the effects, moveable or immoveable, left by the death of any of the reſpective ſubjects in the ſtates of the other power, ſhall deſcend freely, without any obſtacle whatever, to the right heirs of an inteſtate, or legatees by the will of the deceaſed, who ſhall, in conſequence thereof, take immediate poſſeſſion of the eſtate, either by themſelves or by letter of attorney, as well as the teſtamentary executors, if any ſhould have been named by the deceaſed; and the ſaid heirs ſhall afterwards diſpoſe of the eſtate which ſhall have been left them as they think proper, after having paid the different dues, duties, and fees eſtabliſhed by the laws of the ſtate where the ſaid ſucceſſion ſhall have been left. And in caſe that the heirs ſhould be abſent, or ſhould be minors, incapable of claiming their rights, then an inventory ſhall be taken of all the ſucceſſion by a notary public, in preſence of a judge, or of the tribunals of the place, accompanied by the conſul of the nation of the deceaſed, if there be one in the ſame place, and of two other perſons worthy of truſt, and afterwards put into ſome public eſtabliſhment or fund, or into the hands of two or three merchants, who ſhall be named for that purpoſe by the ſaid conſul; or if he ſhould neglect to nominate two ſuch perſons, then into the hands of perſons appointed by public authority for that purpoſe, to the end, that the eſtate or effects may be by them held and preſerved for the legitimate heirs and true proprietors. And if there ſhould ariſe any diſpute relative to ſuch eſtate between different claimants, then the judges of the place where the effects of the deceaſed are found, ſhall decide the proceſs by definitive ſentence, according to the laws of the country.

" XXXV. If peace ſhould be broken between the two contracting parties, (which, God forbid!) the perſons of the reſpective ſubjects ſhall not be ſtopped, nor their veſſels nor effects confiſcated; but one year, at leaſt, ſhall be granted them to ſell, part with, or remove their effects, with a view to repair to whatever place they ſhall think proper, after having, nevertheleſs, paid all the debts which may be legally demanded of them: this likewiſe ſhall be underſtood of thoſe of the reſpective ſubjects who ſhall ſerve by ſea or by land, and both the one and the other ſhall be permitted, before or at the time of their departure, to make to whomſoever they ſhall think proper, or to diſpoſe agreeable to their will and convenience, of ſuch of their effects as they ſhall not have been already able to diſpoſe of; ſo that thoſe who owe them money, as well as thoſe to whom they owe money ſhall be equally obliged to pay their debts, the ſame as if no ſuch rupture had happened.

" XXXVI. The preſent treaty ſhall be in force for the term of twelve years, and all which is found therein decreed, is to be invariably obſerved during this interval, and executed in its full tenor and meaning; provided, that before the expiration of the term of the ſaid treaty, it ſhould depend on the good pleaſure of the two high contracting parties to agree to its prolongation.

" XXXVII. The two high contracting powers engage to ratify the preſent treaty of commerce, and the ratification of it ſhall be exchanged, in good and due form, in the ſpace of ſix weeks from the day of the date of ſigning, or ſooner, if poſſible. In faith of which, we, the under-ſigned, in virtue of our powers plenipotentiary, have thereunto ſet our names, and affixed the ſeal of our arms.

" Done at St. Peterſburg, the $\frac{8}{19}$th of October, 1782.

" (L. S.) PETER CHRISTIAN DE SCHUMACHER.
" (L. S.) JEAN COUNT DE OSTERMAN.
" (L. S.) ALEXANDER COUNT DE WORONTZOW.
" (L. S.) ALEXANDER DE BEZBORODKO.
" (L. S.) PETER DE BACOUNIN."

☞ This treaty of amity and commerce was ratified by their Imperial and Royal Majeſties, and the ratifications were exchanged according to the common cuſtom, by the reſpective plenipotentiaries.

At this time was alſo concluded the following treaty at the Hague, between the republic of Holland and the United States of America.—Though it is founded on the baſis of the ſecret treaty of 1778, yet as it appears in a new ſhape, and in its preſent form and ſubſtance is admitted as a part of the commercial law of Europe, we ſhall give it at large.

" Their High Mightineſſes the States-General of the United Netherlands, and the United States of America, deſiring to aſcertain, in a permanent and equitable manner, the rules to be obſerved relative to the commerce and correſpondence which they intend to eſtabliſh between their reſpective ſtates, countries, and inhabitants, have judged, that the ſaid end cannot be better obtained than by eſtabliſhing the moſt perfect equality and reciprocity for the baſis of their agreement, and by avoiding all thoſe burthenſome preferences which are uſually the ſources of debate, embarraſſment, and diſcontent; by leaving alſo each party at liberty to make, reſpecting commerce and navigation, ſuch ulterior regulations as it ſhall find moſt convenient to itſelf, and by founding the advantages of commerce ſolely upon reciprocal utility, 1782 and the juſt rules of free intercourſe, reſerving withal, to each party, the liberty of admitting, at its pleaſure, other nations to a participation of the ſame advantages.

"On theſe principles, their High Mightineſſes have named for their plenipotentiaries, Meſſieurs their deputies for foreign affairs; and the ſaid United States of America, on their part, have furniſhed with full powers Mr. John Adams, late commiſſioner of the United States of America at the Court of Verſailles, &c. who have agreed and concluded as follows:

"Article I. There ſhall be a firm, inviolable, and univerſal peace, and ſincere friendſhip, between their High Mightineſſes the Lords the States General of the United Netherlands, and the United States of America; and between the ſubjects and inhabitants of the ſaid parties, and between the countries, iſlands, cities, and places, ſituated under the juriſdiction of the ſaid United Netherlands, and the ſaid United States of America, their ſubjects and inhabitants, of every degree, without exception of perſons or places.

"II. The ſubjects of the ſaid States General of the United Netherlands ſhall pay in the ports, havens, roads, countries, iſlands, cities, or places of the United States of America, or any of them, no other nor greater duties or impoſts, of whatever nature or denomination they may be, than thoſe which the nations the moſt favoured are or ſhall be obliged to pay; and they ſhall enjoy all the rights, liberties, privileges, immunities, and exemptions in trade, navigation, and commerce, which the ſaid nations do or ſhall enjoy, whether in paſſing from one port to another in the ſaid ſtates, or in going from any of thoſe ports to any foreign port of the world, or from any foreign port of the world to any of thoſe ports.

"III. The ſubjects and inhabitants of the ſaid United States of America, ſhall pay in the ports, havens, roads, countries, iſlands, cities, or places of the ſaid United Netherlands, or any of them, no other nor greater duties or impoſts, of whatever nature or denomination they may be, than thoſe which the nations the moſt favoured are or ſhall be obliged to pay, and they ſhall enjoy all the rights, liberties, privileges, immunities, and exemptions in trade, navigation, and commerce, which the ſaid nations do or ſhall enjoy, whether in paſſing from one port to another in the ſaid ſtates, or from any one towards any one of theſe ports, from or to any foreign port of the world; and the United States of America, with their ſubjects and inhabitants, ſhall leave to thoſe of their High Mightineſſes the peaceable enjoyment of their rights in the countries, iſlands, and ſeas in the Eaſt and Weſt Indies, without any hinderance or moleſtation.

"IV. There ſhall be an entire and perfect liberty of conſcience allowed to the ſubjects and inhabitants of each party, and to their families, and no one ſhall be moleſted in regard to his worſhip, provided he ſubmits as to the public demonſtration of it, to the laws of the country; there ſhall be given, moreover, liberty, when any ſubjects or inhabitants of either party ſhall die in the territory of the other, to bury them in the uſual burying places, or in decent or convenient grounds to be appointed for that purpoſe, as occaſion ſhall require; and the dead bodies of thoſe who are buried ſhall not, in any wiſe, be moleſted. And the two contracting parties ſhall provide each one in his juriſdiction, that their reſpective ſubjects and inhabitants may henceforward obtain the requiſite certificates in caſes of deaths in which they ſhall be intereſted.

"V. Their High Mightineſſes the States General of the United Netherlands, and the United States of America, ſhall endeavour, by all the means in their power, to defend and protect all veſſels and other effects belonging to their ſubjects and inhabitants reſpectively, or to any of them in their ports, roads, havens, internal ſeas, paſſes, rivers, and as far as their juriſdiction

A. D. 1782 juriſdiction extends at ſea, and to recover and cauſe to be reſtored to the true proprietors, their agents, or attornies, all ſuch veſſels and effects which ſhall be taken under their juriſdictions; and their veſſels of war and convoys, in caſes when they may have a common enemy, ſhall take under their protection all the veſſels belonging to the ſubjects and inhabitants of either party, which ſhall not be laden with contraband goods, according to the deſcription which ſhall be made of them hereafter, for places with which one of the parties is in peace and the other at war, not deſtined for any place blocked, and which ſhall hold the ſame courſe or follow the ſame route: and they ſhall defend ſuch veſſels as long as they ſhall hold the ſame courſe or follow the ſame route againſt all attacks, force, and violence of the common enemy, in the ſame manner as they ought to protect and defend the veſſels belonging to their own reſpective ſubjects.

" VI. The ſubjects of the contracting parties may, on one ſide and on the other, in the reſpective countries and ſtates, diſpoſe of their effects by teſtament, donation, or otherwiſe; and their heirs, ſubjects of one of the parties, and reſiding in the country of the other or elſewhere, ſhall receive ſuch ſucceſſions, even *ab inteſtato*, whether to perſon or by their attorney or ſubſtitute, even although they ſhall not have obtained letters of naturalization, without having the effect of ſuch commiſſion conteſted under pretext of any rights or prerogatives of any province, city, or private perſon; and if the heirs, to whom ſuch ſucceſſion may have fallen, ſhall be minors, the tutors or curators eſtabliſhed by the judge domieniary of the ſaid minors, may govern, direct, adminiſter, ſell, and alterate the effects fallen to the ſaid minors by inheritance, and in general, in relation to the ſaid ſucceſſions and effects, uſe all the rights and fulfil all the functions which belong to the diſpoſition of the laws, to guardians, tutors, and curators: provided, neverthelefs, that this diſpoſition cannot take place but in caſes where the teſtator ſhall not have named guardians, tutors, curators, by teſtament, codicil, or other legal inſtrument.

" VII. It ſhall be lawful and free for the ſubjects of each party to employ ſuch advocates, attornies, notaries, ſolicitors, or factors, as they ſhall judge proper.

" VIII. Merchants, maſters, and owners of ſhips, mariners, men of all kinds, ſhips, and veſſels, and all merchandizes, and goods in general, and effects of one of the confederates, or of the ſubjects thereof, ſhall not be ſeized or detained in any of the countries, lands, iſlands, cities, places, ports, ſhores, or denominations whatſoever of the other confederate for any military expedition, public or private uſe of any one, by arreſts, violence, or any colour hereof; much leſs ſhall it be permitted to the ſubjects of either party to take or extort, by force, any thing from the ſubjects of the other party without the conſent of the owner; which, however, is not to be underſtood of ſeizures, deſcentions, and arreſts, which ſhall be made by the command and authority of juſtice, and by the ordinary methods on account of debts or crimes, in reſpect whereof, the proceedings muſt be, by way of law, according to the forms of juſtice.

" IX. It is farther agreed and concluded, that it ſhall be wholly free for all merchants, commanders of ſhips, and other ſubjects and inhabitants of the contracting parties, in every place ſubjected to the juriſdiction of the two powers reſpectively, to manage themſelves their own buſineſs: and, moreover, as to the uſe of interpreters or brokers, as alſo in relation to the loading or unloading of their veſſels, and every thing which has relation thereto, they ſhall be, on one ſide and on the other, conſidered and treated upon the footing of natural ſubjects, or, at leaſt, upon an equality with the moſt favoured nation.

"X. The merchant ſhips of either of the parties, coming from the port of an enemy, or from their own or a neutral port, may navigate freely towards any port of an enemy of the other ally: they ſhall be, nevertheleſs, held, whenever it ſhall be required, to exhibit, as well upon the high ſeas as in the ports, their ſea letters and other documents deſcribed in the 25th article, ſtating expreſsly, that their effects are not of the number of thoſe which are prohibited as contraband: and not having any contraband goods for an enemy's port, they may freely, and without hinderance, purſue their voyage towards the port of an enemy. Nevertheleſs, it ſhall not be required to examine the papers of veſſels convoyed by veſſels of war, but credence ſhall be given to the word of the officer who ſhall conduct the convoy.

"XI. If, by exhibiting the ſea letters and other documents deſcribed more particularly in the 25th article of this treaty, the other party ſhall diſcover there are any of thoſe ſorts of goods which are declared prohibited and contraband, and that they are conſigned for a port under the obedience of his enemy, it ſhall not be lawful to break up the hatches of ſuch ſhip, nor to open any cheſt, coffer, packs, caſks, or other veſſels found therein, or to remove the ſmalleſt parcel of her goods, whether the ſaid veſſel belongs to the ſubjects of their High Mightineſſes the States General of the United Netherlands, or to the ſubjects or inhabitants of the ſaid United States of America, unleſs the lading be brought on ſhore in preſence of the officers of the court of Admiralty, and an inventory thereof made, but there ſhall be no allowance to ſell, exchange, or alienate the ſame until after that due and lawful proceſs ſhall have been had againſt ſuch prohibited goods of contraband, and the Court of Admiralty, by a ſentence pronounced, ſhall have confiſcated the ſame, ſaving always as well the ſhip itſelf as any other goods found therein, which are to be eſteemed free, and may not be detained on pretence of their being infected by the prohibited goods, much leſs ſhall they be confiſcated as lawful prizes: but, on the contrary, when by the viſitation at land it ſhall be found that there are no contraband goods in the veſſel, and it ſhall not appear by the papers, that he who has taken and carried in the veſſel has been able to diſcover any there, he ought to be condemned in all the charges, damages, and intereſts of them, which he ſhall have cauſed both to the owners of veſſels and to the owners and freighters of cargoes with which they ſhall be loaded, by his temerity in taking and carrying them in, declaring moſt expreſsly; the free veſſels ſhall aſſure the liberty of the effects with which they ſhall be loaded, and that this liberty ſhall extend itſelf equally to the perſons who ſhall be found in a free veſſel, who may not be taken out of her, unleſs they are military men actually in the ſervice of an enemy.

"XII. On the contrary, it is agreed, that whatever ſhall be found to be laden by the ſubjects and inhabitants of either party on any ſhip belonging to the enemies of the other, or to their ſubjects, although it be not comprehended under the ſort of prohibited goods, the whole may be confiſcated in the ſame manner as if it belonged to the enemy; except, nevertheleſs, ſuch effects and merchandizes as were put on board ſuch veſſel before the declaration of war, or within ſix months after it, which effects ſhall not be, in any manner, ſubject to confiſcation, but ſhall be faithfully, and without delay, reſtored in nature to the owners who ſhall claim them, or cauſe them to be claimed, before the confiſcation and ſale, as alſo their proceeds, if the claim could not be made but in the ſpace of eight months after the ſale, which ought to be public: provided, nevertheleſs, that if the ſaid merchandizes are contraband, it ſhall, by no means, be lawful to tranſport them afterwards to any port belonging to enemies.

"XIII. And that more effectual care may be taken for the ſecurity of ſubjects and people of either party, that they do not ſuffer any moleſtation from the veſſels of war or privateers of the

A. D. 1782 the other party, it ſhall be forbidden to all the commanders of veſſels of war and other armed veſſels of the ſaid States General of the United Netherlands, and the ſaid United States of America, as well as to all their officers, ſubjects and people, to give any offence, or do any damage to thoſe of the other party: and if they act to the contrary, they ſhall be, upon the firſt complaint which ſhall be made of it, being found guilty after a juſt examination, puniſhed by their proper judges, and, moreover, obliged to make ſatisfaction for all damages and intereſts thereof by reparation, under pain and obligation of their perſons and goods.

“ XIV. For further determining of what has been ſaid, all captains of privateers, or fitters out of veſſels armed for war, under commiſſion and on account of private perſons, ſhall be held before their departure, to give ſufficient caution before competent judges, either to be entirely reſponſible for the malverſations which they may commit in their cruizes or voyages, as well as for the contraventions of their captains and officers, againſt the preſent treaty, and againſt the ordinances and edicts which ſhall be publiſhed in conſequence of, and conformably to it, under pain of forfeiture and nullity of the ſaid commiſſion.

“ XV. All veſſels and merchandizes of whatſoever nature, which ſhall be reſcued out of the hands of any pirates or robbers, navigating the high ſeas, without requiſite commiſſions, ſhall be brought into ſome port of one of the two States, and depoſited in the hands of the officers of that port, in order to be reſtored entire to the true proprietor, as ſoon as due and ſufficient proofs ſhall be made concerning the property thereof.

“ XVI. If any ſhips or veſſels belonging to either of the parties, their ſubjects or people, ſhall, within the coaſts or dominions of the other, ſtick upon the ſands or be wrecked, or ſuffer any other ſea damage, all friendly aſſiſtance and relief ſhall be given to the perſons ſhipwrecked, or ſuch as ſhall be in danger thereof; and the veſſels, effects and merchandizes, or the part of them, which ſhall have been ſaved, or the proceeds of them, if being periſhable they ſhall have been ſold, being claimed within a year and a day, by the maſters or owners, or their agents or attornies, ſhall be reſtored, paying only the reaſonable charges, and that which muſt be paid, in the ſame caſe, for the ſalvage, by the proper ſubjects of the country; there ſhall alſo be delivered them ſafe conducts or paſſports, for their free and ſafe paſſage from thence, and to return each one to his own country.

“ XVII. In caſe the ſubjects or people of either party, with their ſhipping, whether public and of war, or private and of merchants, be forced, through ſtreſs of weather, purſuit of pirates or enemies, or any other urgent neceſſity for ſeeking of ſhelter and harbour, to retreat and enter into any of the rivers, creeks, bays, ports, roads or ſhores, belonging to the other party, they ſhall be received with all humanity and kindneſs, and enjoy all friendly protection and help, and they ſhall be permitted to refreſh and provide themſelves at reaſonable rates, with victuals and all things needful for the ſuſtenance of their perſons, or reparation of their ſhips; and they ſhall no ways be detained or hindered from returning out of the ſaid ports or roads, but may remove and depart when and whither they pleaſe, without any let or hinderance.

“ XVIII. For the better promoting of commerce on both ſides, it is agreed, that if a war ſhould break out between their High Mightineſſes the States General of the United Netherlands and the United States of America, there ſhall always be granted to the ſubjects on each ſide, the term of nine months, after the date of the rupture, or the proclamation of war; to the end that they may retire with their effects, and tranſport them where they pleaſe; which it ſhall be lawful for them to do, as well as to ſell or tranſport their effects and goods in all freedom, and without hinderance, and without being able to proceed during the ſaid term of

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nine months, to any arreſt of their effects, much leſs of their perſons; on the contrary, there ſhall be given them, for their veſſels and their effects which they would carry away, paſſports and life conducts, for the neareſt ports of their reſpective countries, and for the time neceſſary for the voyage, and no prize made at ſea ſhall be adjudged lawful, at leaſt if the declaration of war was not or could not be known in the laſt port, which the veſſel taken has quitted. But for whatever may have been taken from the ſubjects and inhabitants of either party, and for the offences which may have been given them, in the interval of the ſaid terms, a complete ſatisfaction ſhall be given them.

" XIX. No ſubject of their High Mightineſſes the States General of the United Netherlands, ſhall apply for or take any commiſſion or letter of marque for arming any ſhip or ſhips, to act as privateers againſt the ſaid United States of America, or any of them, or the ſubjects and inhabitants of the ſaid United States or any of them, or againſt the property of the inhabitants of any of them, from any Prince or State with which the ſaid United States of America may happen to be at war; nor ſhall any ſubject or inhabitant of the ſaid United States of America, or any of them, apply for or take any commiſſion or letters of marque for arming any ſhip or ſhips to act as privateers againſt the High and Mighty Lords the States General of the United Netherlands, or againſt the ſubjects of their High Mightineſſes, or any of them, or againſt the property of any one of them, from any Prince or State with which their High Mightineſſes may be at war: and if any perſon of either nation ſhall take ſuch commiſſion or letters of marque he ſhall be puniſhed as a pirate.

" XX. If the veſſels of the ſubjects or inhabitants of one of the parties come upon any coaſt belonging to either of the ſaid allies, but not willing to enter into port, or being entered into port and not willing to unload their cargoes or break bulk, or take in any cargo, they ſhall not be obliged to pay neither for the veſſels nor the cargoes, any duties of entry in or out, nor to render any account of their cargoes, at leaſt if there is not juſt cauſe to preſume that they carry to an enemy merchandizes of contraband.

" XXI. The two contracting parties grant to each other mutually, the liberty of having each in the ports of the other, conſuls, vice-conſuls, agents, and commiſſaries of their own appointing, whoſe functions ſhall be regulated by particular agreements, whenever either party chuſe to make ſuch appointments.

" XXII. This treaty ſhall not be underſtood in any manner to derogate from the ninth, tenth, nineteenth and twenty-fourth articles of the treaty with France, as they were numbered in the ſame treaty, concluded the 6th of February, 1778, and which make the articles ninth, tenth, ſeventeenth and twenty-ſecond of the treaty of commerce now ſubſiſting between the United States of America and the crown of France: nor ſhall it hinder his Catholic Majeſty from acceding to that treaty, and enjoying the advantages of the ſaid four articles.

" XXIII. If at any time the United States of America ſhall judge neceſſary to commence negociations with the King or Emperor of Morocco and Fez, and with the Regencies of Algiers, Tunis, or Tripoli, or with any of them, to obtain paſſports for the ſecurity of their navigation in the Mediterranean ſea; their High Mightineſſes promiſe, that upon the requiſition which the United States of America ſhall make of it, they will ſecond ſuch negociations in the moſt favourable manner by means of their conſuls reſiding near the ſaid King, Emperor and Regencies.

" XXIV. The liberty of navigation and commerce ſhall extend to all ſorts of merchandizes, excepting only thoſe which are diſtinguiſhed under the name of contraband, or merchandizes

A. D. 1782 chandizes prohibited; and under this denomination of contraband and merchandizes prohibited ſhall be comprehended only warlike ſtores and arms, as mortars, artillery with their artifices and appurtenances, fuſils, piſtols, bombs, grenades, gunpowder, ſaltpetre, ſulphur, match, bullets and balls, pikes, ſabres, lances, halberts, caſques, cuiraſſes, and other ſorts of arms; as alſo ſoldiers, horſes, ſaddles and furniture for horſes. All other effects and merchandizes, not before ſpecified expreſsly, and even all ſorts of naval matters, however proper they may be, for the conſtruction and equipment of veſſels of war, or for the manufacture of one or other ſort of machines of war, by land or ſea, ſhall not be judged contraband, neither by the letter, nor according to any pretended interpretation whatever, ought they, or can they be comprehended, under the notion of effects prohibited or contraband; ſo that all effects and merchandizes, which are not expreſsly before-named, may, without any exception, and in perfect liberty be tranſported, by the ſubjects and inhabitants of both allies, from and to places belonging to the enemy, excepting only the places which at that time ſhall be beſieged, blocked or inveſted, and thoſe places only ſhall be held for ſuch, which are ſurrounded nearly by ſome of the belligerent powers.

" XXV. To the end that all diſſention and quarrel may be avoided and prevented, it has been agreed, that in caſe that one of the two parties happens to be at war, the veſſels belonging to the ſubjects or inhabitants of the other ally, ſhall be provided with ſea-letters or paſſports, expreſſing the name, the property, and the burden of the veſſel, as alſo the name and the place of abode of the maſter, or commander of the ſaid veſſel, to the end that thereby it may appear, that the veſſel really and truly belongs to the ſubjects or inhabitants of ſome of the parties; which paſſport ſhall be drawn and diſtributed according to the form annexed to this treaty, each time that the veſſel ſhall return, ſhe ſhould have ſuch her paſſports renewed, or at leaſt they ought not to be of more ancient date than two years, before the veſſel has been returned to her own country.

" It has been alſo agreed, that ſuch veſſels, being loaded, ought to be provided not only with the ſaid paſſports or ſea-letters, but alſo with a general paſſport, or with particular paſſports or manifeſt, or other public documents which are ordinarily given to veſſels outward bound, in the ports from whence the veſſels have ſet ſail in the laſt place, containing a ſpecification of the cargo, of the place from whence the veſſel departed, and of that of her deſtination; or inſtead of all theſe, with certificates from the magiſtrates or governors of cities, places and colonies from whence the veſſel came, given in the uſual form, to the end that it may be known whether there are any effects prohibited or contraband on board the veſſels, and whether they are deſtined to be carried to an enemy's country or not. And in caſe any one judges proper, to expreſs in the ſaid documents, the perſons to whom the effects on board belong, he may do it freely, without, however, being bound to do it; and the omiſſion of ſuch expreſſion cannot and ought not to cauſe confiſcation.

" XXVI. If the veſſels of the ſaid ſubjects or inhabitants of either of the parties ſailing along the coaſts or on the high ſeas, are met by a veſſel of war or privateer, or other armed veſſel of the other party, the ſaid veſſels of war, privateers or armed veſſels, for avoiding all diſorder, ſhall remain without reach of cannon, but may ſend their boats on board the merchant veſſel which they ſhall meet in this manner, upon which they may not paſs more than two or three men, to whom the maſter or commander ſhall exhibit his paſſport, containing the property of the veſſel, according to the form annexed to this treaty; and the veſſel, after having

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1782 exhibited ſuch paſſport, ſea-letter, and other documents, ſhall be free to continue her voyage, ſo that it ſhall not be lawful to moleſt her, or ſearch her in any manner, nor to give her chace, nor to force her to alter her courſe.

" XXVII. It ſhall be lawful for merchants, captains, and commanders of veſſels, whether public and of war, or private and of merchants, belonging to the ſaid United States of America, or any of them, or to their ſubjects and inhabitants, to take freely into their ſervices and receive on board of their veſſels, in any port or place in the juriſdiction of their High Mightineſſes aforeſaid, ſeamen or others, natives or inhabitants of any of the ſaid States, upon ſuch conditions as they ſhall agree on, without being ſubject for this to any fine, penalty, puniſhment, proceſs, or reprehenſion whatſoever; and reciprocally, all merchants, captains, and commanders, belonging to the ſaid United Netherlands, ſhall enjoy in all the ports and places under the obedience of the ſaid United States of America, the ſame privilege of engaging and receiving ſeamen, or others, natives or inhabitants of any country of the domination of the ſaid States General; provided that neither on the one ſide nor the other, they may not take into their ſervice, ſuch of their countrymen who have already engaged in the ſervice of the other party contracting, whether in war or trade, and whether they meet them by land or ſea; at leaſt, if the captains or maſters, under the command of whom ſuch perſons may be found, will not, of his own conſent, diſcharge them from their ſervice, upon pain of being otherwiſe treated and puniſhed as deſerters.

" XXVIII. The affair of refraction ſhall be regulated in all equity and juſtice, by the magiſtrates of cities reſpectively, where it ſhall be judged that there is any room to complain in this reſpect.

" XXIX. The preſent treaty ſhall be ratified and approved by their High Mightineſſes the States General of the United Netherlands, and by the United States of America, and the acts of ratification ſhall be delivered in good and due form on one ſide and the other, in the ſpace of ſix months, or ſooner if poſſible, to be computed from the day of the ſignature.

" In faith of which, we, the deputies and plenipotentiaries of the Lords States General of the United Netherlands, and the miniſter plenipotentiary of the United States of America, in virtue of our reſpective authorities and full powers, have ſigned the preſent treaty, and oppoſed thereto the ſeals of our arms.

" Done at the Hague, the 8th of October, 1782."

The Form of the Paſſport which ſhall be given to Ships and Veſſels, in conſequence of the twenty-fifth Article of this Treaty.

" To all who ſhall ſee theſe preſents, greeting: be it known, that leave and permiſſion are hereby given to master and commander of the ſhip or veſſel called of the burden of tons, or thereabouts, lying at preſent in the port or haven of bound for and laden with to depart and proceed with the ſaid ſhip or veſſel on his ſaid voyage, ſuch ſhip or veſſel having been viſited, and the ſaid maſter and commander having made oath before the proper officer, that the ſaid ſhip or veſſel belongs to one or more of the ſubjects, people, or inhabitants of and to him or them only.

" In witneſs whereof, we have ſubſcribed our names to theſe preſents, and affixed the ſeal of our arms thereto, and cauſed the ſame to be counterſigned by at this day of in the year of our Lord Chriſt."

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Form of the Certificates which ſhall be given to Ships or Veſſels in conſequence of the twenty-fifth Article of this Treaty.

“ We magiſtrates or officers of the cuſtoms of the city or port of do certify and atteſt, that on the day of in the year of our Lord C. D. of perſonally appeared before us, and declared by ſolemn oath, that the ſhip or veſſel called of tons, or thereabouts, whereof of is at preſent maſter or commander, does rightfully and properly belong to him or them only. That ſhe is now bound for the city or port of to the port of laden with goods and merchandizes hereunder particularly deſcribed and enumerated as follows :

“ In witneſs whereof we have ſigned this certificate, and ſealed it with the ſeal of our office, this day of in the year of our Lord Chriſt.”

Form of the Sea Letter.

“ Moſt Serene, Serene, Moſt Puiſſant, Puiſſant, High, Illuſtrious, Noble, Honourable, Venerable, Wiſe and Prudent Lords, Emperors, Kings, Republics, Princes, Dukes, Earls, Barons, Lords, Burgomaſters, Schepens, Counſellors, as alſo Judges, Officers, Juſticiaries and Regents, of all the good cities and places, whether eccleſiaſtical or ſecular, who ſhall ſee theſe patents, or hear them read : we, Burgomaſters and Regents of the city of make known that the maſter of appearing before us, has declared upon oath, that the veſſel called of the burden of about laſts, which he at preſent navigates, is of the United Provinces, and that no ſubjects of the enemy have any part or portion therein, directly or indirectly, ſo may God Almighty help him ; and as we wiſh to ſee the ſaid maſter proſper in his lawful affairs, our prayer is, to all the before-mentioned, and to each of them ſeparately, where the ſaid maſter ſhall arrive with his veſſel and cargo, that they may pleaſe to receive the ſaid maſter with goodneſs, and to treat him in a becoming manner, permitting him upon the uſual tolls and expences, in paſſing and repaſſing, to paſs, navigate and frequent the ports, paſſes and territories, to the end, to tranſact the buſineſs where and in what manner he ſhall judge proper ; whereof we ſhall be willingly indebted.

“ In witneſs, and for cauſe whereof, we affix hereto the ſeal of this city,”

In the Margin.

“ By ordinance of the High and Mighty Lords, the States General of the United Netherlands.

“ And whereas a convention, concerning veſſels recaptured, was at the place and on the day above-mentioned, concluded by the ſaid miniſter plenipotentiary, on the part of theſe United States, with the ſaid plenipotentiaries on the part of the ſaid Lords the States General of the United Netherlands ; and the ſame hath been this day approved and ratified by the United States in Congreſs aſſembled, as it is contained in the words following, to wit :”

Convention between the Lords the States General of the United Netherlands, and the United States of America, concerning Veſſels recaptured.

“ The Lords the States General of the United Netherlands, and the United States of America, being inclined to eſtabliſh ſome uniform principles, with relation to prizes made by veſſels of war, and commiſſioned by the two contracting powers, upon their common enemies, and to veſſels of the ſubjects of either party captured by the enemy, and recaptured by veſſels of war commiſſioned by either party, have agreed upon the following articles :

“ Article I. The veſſels of either of the two nations, recaptured by the privateers of the other, ſhall be reſtored to the firſt proprietor, if ſuch veſſels have not been four and twenty

1782 hours in the power of the enemy; provided the owner of the veſſel recaptured pay therefore one-third of the value of the veſſel, as alſo of that of the cargo, the cannons and apparel; which third ſhall be valued by agreement between the parties intereſted, or if they cannot agree thereon among themſelves, they ſhall addreſs themſelves to the officers of the Admiralty of the place where the privateer, who has retaken the veſſel ſhall have conducted her.

"II. If the veſſel recaptured has been more than 24 hours in the power of the enemy, ſhe ſhall belong entirely to the privateer who has retaken her.

"III. In caſe a veſſel ſhall have been recaptured by a veſſel of war belonging to the States General of the United Netherlands, or to the United States of America, ſhe ſhall be reſtored to the firſt owner, he paying a thirtieth part of the value of the ſhip, her cargo, cannons and apparel, if ſhe has been recaptured in the interval of 24 hours, and the tenth part if ſhe has been recaptured after the 24 hours; which ſums ſhall be diſtributed in form of gratifications to the crews of the veſſels which ſhall have retaken her. The valuation of the ſaid thirtieth parts and tenth parts ſhall be regulated according to the tenor of the firſt article of the preſent convention.

"IV. The reſtitution of prizes, whether they may have been retaken by veſſels of war or privateers, in the mean time, and until requiſite and ſufficient proofs can be given of the property of veſſels recaptured, ſhall be admitted in a reaſonable time, under ſufficient ſureties for the obſervation of the aforeſaid articles.

"V. The veſſels of war and privateers, of one and the other of the two nations, ſhall be reciprocally, both in Europe and in the other parts of the world, admitted in the reſpective ports of each, with their prizes, which may be unloaded and ſold according to the formalities uſed in the ſtate where the prizes ſhall have been conducted, as far as may be conſiſtent with the twenty-ſecond article of the treaty of commerce: provided always, that the legality of prizes, by the veſſels of the Low Countries, ſhall be decided conformably to the cuſtoms and regulations eſtabliſhed in the United Netherlands; as likewiſe, that of prizes made by American veſſels, ſhall be judged according to the laws and regulations determined by the United States of America.

"VI. Moreover it ſhall be free for the States General of the United Netherlands, as well as for the United States of America, to make ſuch regulations as they ſhall judge neceſſary, relative to the conduct which their reſpective veſſels and privateers ought to hold in relation to the veſſels which they ſhall have taken and conducted into the ports of the two powers.

"In faith of which, we, the deputies and plenipotentiaries of the Lords the States General of the United Netherlands, and miniſter plenipotentiary of the United States of America, have in virtue of our reſpective authorities, and full powers, ſigned theſe preſents, and confirmed the ſame with the ſeal of our arms.

"Done at the Hague, the 8th of October, 1782."

This convention was ratified in Congreſs, on the 23d of January, 1783.

In conſequence of the reſolutions of the Britiſh Parliament for an accommodation with the American Colonies, and the powers granted to the crown for negociating and concluding a general or particular peace or truce with the whole or with any part of that people, and for ſuſpending and ſetting aſide all former laws, whoſe operations were in contravention to that purpoſe. Inſtructions had been diſpatched to Sir Guy Carleton, who ſucceeded Sir Henry Clinton in the command of the Britiſh army in America, to uſe his endeavours towards carrying the ſame into effect.

A. D. 1782 In conſequence of theſe inſtructions, the Britiſh commander informed General Waſhington of the proceedings of Parliament, and of the commiſſion that he had received; and to accelerate the purpoſes of it, he demanded a paſſport for Mr. Morgan, his ſecretary, granting him permiſſion to repair to Congreſs, General Waſhington, referring this requeſt to that body, it paſſed a reſolution in the negative. The idea of a general or ſeparate negociation with Great Britain, or of any treaty without the participation of France, was rejected with much warmth by the various provinces of the union. They unanimouſly concurred in declaring, that no accommodation ſhould take place, which was not founded on the general conſent of the United States, and conformably to the ſtipulations made with the allies. The State of Pennſylvania in particular, reſolved, that all men, or bodies of men, who ſhould agree to a ſeparate treaty with Great Britain, ſhould be conſidered as foes to the union, and that any proffers on the part of Great Britain, to the prejudice of their alliance with France, ſhould be rejected with diſdain. It even paſſed a declaration, that Congreſs itſelf poſſeſſed no right to frame any act tending to abrogate the ſupreme authority and independence of any province of the union.

In conformity to theſe ſentiments, Congreſs declared, at the ſame time, that no amicable conference could be held with any commiſſioners from Great Britain, without a preliminary acknowledgment of the independence of America, or withdrawing its fleets and armies from that country. Indeed, ſo ſuſpicious were they of a ſchiſm in the States, ſhould opportunities be given for making ſuch offers of advantage as might be expected from the political intereſt of Great Britain, that Congreſs, in order to preclude all hope of compaſſing a ſeparate treaty, ſtrongly recommended that a watchful eye ſhould be kept againſt the entrance of emiſſaries from Britain into the United States; that no individuals coming among them under flags of truce, ſhould be allowed any communication with the inhabitants, but ſuch as immediately related to the buſineſs that brought them; and even that no perſon coming from any part of the Britiſh dominions ſhould, during the war, have admiſſion into any of the United States.

To bring about a peace, was an object of the moſt anxious attention to the new adminiſtration; and, as the independence of America was granted, there did not ſeem to be any uncommon impediment in the way to prevent the immediate reſtoration of general tranquillity; and in order to ſettle the preliminaries and ſmooth the way for opening a negociation in due form, Mr. Grenville had been for ſome time in Paris.

In the mean time, the death of the Marquis of Rockingham occaſioned another change of adminiſtration;—the Duke of Portland, Mr. Fox, Lord John Cavendiſh, and ſeveral others quitted their poſts on this occaſion,—when the Earl of Shelburne was appointed to the Treaſury,—Mr. William Pitt was made Chancellor of the Exchequer,—Mr. T. Townſhend and Lord Grantham, Secretaries of State,—and the Earl Temple ſucceeded to the Lord Lieutenancy of Ireland.

The work of peace ſtill proceeded,—Mr. Fitzherbert, the Britannic Miniſter at Bruſſels, was ordered to repair to Paris, when he was appointed plenipotentiary on the part of England, to negociate and conclude a treaty of peace with the miniſters of France, Spain and Holland. Mr. Oſwald, a merchant of diſtinguiſhed commercial knowledge, was likewiſe diſpatched to the ſame place, as commiſſioner from the court of London, for treating of peace with John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, John Jay, and Henry Laurens, four of the commiſſioners appointed for the ſame purpoſe on the part of the United States of America.

On the 23d of November, the Lord Mayor of London and the Governor of the Bank received letters from the Secretary of State, which acquainted them, for the information of the public, 1782 public, and to prevent the miſchiefs ariſing from ſpeculations in the funds, that the negociations carrying on at Paris were brought ſo far to a point, as to promiſe a deciſive concluſion either for peace or war before the meeting of Parliament, which, on that account, was prorogued to the 5th of December.

On the 3d of December, the Lord Mayor, &c. received a ſecond letter from the Secretary of State, which informed him, that proviſional articles had been ſigned at Paris on the 30th of of November, by his Majeſty's commiſſioners and the commiſſioners of the United States of America, to be inſerted in and conſtitute a treaty of peace to be concluded, when terms of peace ſhall be agreed upon between Great Britain and France.

Such was the ſituation of public affairs when Parliament aſſembled. The ſpeech from the throne which opened this ſeſſion was of unuſual length, and comprehended every ſubject which could, with propriety, be offered to the conſideration of Parliament.

It began with the aſſurance that his Majeſty had, ſince the cloſe of the laſt ſeſſion, employed his whole time in attending to the critical conjuncture of public affairs. It then ſtated, that no time had been loſt in putting an end to the proſecution of offenſive war in North America; and, after informing Parliament that he had offered to declare the colonies of North America free and independent ſtates, and that proviſional articles were actually agreed upon, to take effect when the terms of accommodation could be finally adjuſted with the court of France, his Majeſty proceeds in the following expreſſive manner:—" In thus admitting their ſeparation from the crown of theſe kingdoms, I have ſacrificed every conſideration of my own to the wiſhes and opinion of my people. I make it my humble and earneſt prayer to Almighty God, that Great Britain may not feel the evils which might reſult from ſo great a diſmemberment of the empire; and that America may be free from thoſe calamities which have formerly proved, in the mother country, how eſſential monarchy is to the enjoyment of conſtitutional liberty." The defence and relief of Gibraltar, &c. and the ſubſequent conduct of the fleet, were mentioned in terms of the higheſt panegyric. The negociations for a general peace were announced as conſiderably advanced,—at the ſame time a perfect confidence was expreſſed, that, if the expectations of compleating it ſhould be fruſtrated, the moſt vigorous efforts would be uſed in the further proſecution of the war. The Houſe of Commons was aſſured of the endeavours that had been, and would continue to be made, to promote œconomy in the public expenditure. The payment of the debt ſtill remaining on the civil liſt, and the relief of the American ſufferers, were recommended to their conſideration. Their attention was alſo called to the regulations that had been adopted in their incidental expences, fees, and other emoluments of office;—to the landed revenue of the crown, and the managements of its woods and foreſts;—to the department of the mint;—to the general ſtate of the public receipts and expenditure of the public debt;—and to ſuch a mode of conducting future loans, as to promote the means of its gradual redemption. The practice of payment by navy, ordnance, and victualling bills, was ſtrongly reprobated; and a more correct method of making up the eſtimates for the ſervice of the year was promiſed. The high price of corn was then adverted to,—the frequency of theft and robbery was mentioned, and the prevention of thoſe crimes, by correcting the prevailing vices of the times, earneſtly recommended. The liberal principles which had been adopted with regard to the rights and commerce of Ireland, were mentioned with great approbation. A reviſion of our whole trading ſyſtem, with a view of its greateſt poſſible extenſion, was recommended,—and ſome fundamental regulation of our Aſiatic territories was required, that all foreign nations, in matters of foreign commerce, might poſſeſs an entire and perfect

confidence

A. D. 1782 confidence in the probity, punctuality and good order of the Britiſh government. His Majeſty concluded this important ſpeech with declaring, that the ſpirit of the conſtitution ſhould be the invariable rule of his conduct,—that he would reward merit on all occaſions, and in every profeſſion,—and that the temper, wiſdom, and diſintereſtedneſs of Parliament, collectively and individually, were neceſſary to enſure the full advantage of a government conducted on ſuch principles.

Addreſſes in the uſual ſtyle were moved in both Houſes, and carried *nemine contradicente*: but though theſe addreſſes were voted without a diſſentient voice, and even without any amendment being propoſed,—neither the ſpeech, nor the conduct of the new miniſters, eſcaped the ſevere examination of the oppoſite party. During the ſitting of Parliament previous to the Chriſtmas receſs, a variety of diſcuſſions took place relating to the ſubject of pacification, in which the abilities of adminiſtration and its opponents, were diſplayed with no common heat and acrimony; but the principal object was of too much importance to be affected by any collateral conſideration,—and it ſeemed to be the prevailing opinion of all parties, that no impediment ſhould be thrown in the way of peace. After voting thanks to Governor Elliot, Lieutenant General Boyd, with the other officers, &c. employed in the defence of Gibraltar,—conferring the ſame honour on Sir Edward Hughes, for his ſervices in the Eaſt Indies, and paſſing the land tax and malt bills, &c. the Parliament was adjourned to the 21ſt day of the approaching month of January, 1783.

Great Britain was not ſingular in feeling a deſire for the return of peace; ſimilar ſentiments prevailed among all her enemies. Notwithſtanding the incumbrances with which ſhe was oppreſſed,—though deprived of her North American colonies, and greatly injured by ſubſequent loſſes, ſhe had yet proved ſtrong enough to reſiſt their united powers. Her ſtrength was yet vigorous, and her reſources were not yet exhauſted: the ſpirit of her councils was not enfeebled, and the nation at large, however it might have been divided in regard to the American war, continued inflexibly reſolute in the determination to face all its enemies.

France, the great ſupport of the confederacy againſt Britain, began to feel an alarming diminution of thoſe means by which ſhe had hitherto continued to maintain it. The expences of the war preſſed very heavily upon her, as ſhe had not only her own fleets and armies to ſupport, but was called upon by America for pecuniary, as well as other ſupplies. Her trade had materially ſuffered in the beginning of the war, and the numerous individuals whoſe affairs had been eſſentially injured at this period, had not yet recovered from their embarraſſments. In the European ſeas, though aſſiſted by the whole naval power of Spain, ſhe had not been able to make any impreſſion on the coaſt or marine of Great Britain, or to prevent the uſual and eſtabliſhed courſe of its commerce. Her credit was, at length, beginning to totter,—while the Americans were continually complaining of the tardineſs of her remittances, and did not heſitate to aſcribe, in the moſt unreſerved manner, many of the diſaſters which befel them to her deficiencies in that particular.

Spain, the other great member of the confederacy, was conſidered, with great reaſon, as having acted a part, upon this occaſion, totally inconſiſtent with the maxims ſhe ought to have adopted reſpecting America. The empire which ſhe had now been aſſiſting to form itſelf in the northern part of that hemiſphere, where ſhe herſelf poſſeſſed ſuch an extent of dominion, was incompatible with her intereſts;—but in this, as in many other inſtances, the Spaniſh nation was ſacrificed to miniſterial intrigues. The recovery of Jamaica in the new world, and of Minorca in the old, and, above all, of Gibraltar, was deſcribed as a compenſation which

1782 would amply repay the trouble and expence that might be occaſioned by uniting with France in ſupport of the Britiſh colonies. Allured by ſuch engaging repreſentations, and influenced, without doubt, by a regard to the family compact, the Spaniſh court entered into this combination againſt Great Britain, without perceiving or duly conſidering the conſequences of it. The capture of Minorca had lately renewed the ſpirits of the Spaniſh nation,—but the ſubſequent failure of their arms before Gibraltar, had cauſed a very ſuperior degree of depreſſion. This mortifying circumſtance, with the complete relief of that fortreſs, in the face, and in defiance of the whole naval ſtrength of the Houſe of Bourbon, together with the preceding defeat of the nobleſt fleet that France had ever ſent to the Weſt Indies, were events that convinced the miniſtry of Spain how erroneouſly it had been led to expect, that the humiliation of Great Britain would be a work of facility, in the difficult circumſtances wherein ſhe was involved by diſpute with her refractory colonies.

Holland, the laſt member of the confederacy, in point of power as well as of time, had every reaſon in the world to deſire a termination of the quarrel in which ſhe had engaged.—Never had that ſtate exhibited ſuch ſymptoms of debility as at the preſent moment. Its arſenals at home were empty, and its dependencies abroad without any adequate defence. Separated from its ancient and natural ally, it depended entirely upon France for the protection of its foreign poſſeſſions; ſo that it was obliged to ſubmit without reſerve, in all the meaſures of its government, to the will of the French miniſtry. In this precarious and fallen ſtate, the Dutch could hardly be ſaid to have any power of their own, and were to be conſidered as nothing more than the paſſive inſtruments of France.

Such were the reciprocal ſituations of the ſeveral belligerent powers, towards the cloſe of the year 1782,—by which it appears, that however great their ambition, or violent their reſentments might be, they were all deſirous of peace, as they were all in a condition to make its reſtoring powers eſſential to their future proſperity.

The diſſentions and commotions at Geneva not only continued to increaſe, but to be attended with the moſt ruinous conſequences to that republic. By the original conſtitution of Geneva, the ſovereign power of the ſtate was inveſted in the general council, which conſiſted of all the citizens, &c.: but, by degrees, the magiſtrates and ſenate had greatly increaſed their own power, and diminiſhed the privileges of the people. Repeated complaints were made by the latter, that the former had exceeded their authority and encroached upon their rights.—The ſenate occaſionally impoſed taxes, without the conſent of the general council; and the ſeverity with which the magiſtrates and ſenate ſometimes puniſhed thoſe who had cenſured and oppoſed their attempts to extend the bounds of their authority, had contributed to increaſe the number of malcontents. Such a ſtate of things naturally occaſioned frequent conteſts; and to prevent a continuance of diſputes, the democratical party required a regular code of laws, which ſhould be for the rulers the foundation of their authority, and for the people the known ſtandard of their obedience: mutual confidence was about to reſt upon the baſis of public order and common ſecurity, when by the intrigues of the ariſtocratical party, this ſalutary project was defeated. The magiſtrates not only employed the moſt unjuſtifiable practices for the ſupport of their authority, and made the moſt exaggerated repreſentations of the oppoſition ſet up againſt them by the other citizens; but endeavoured to obtain the interference of foreign powers, and in this fatal meaſure were unfortunately ſucceſsful. The interpoſition of the court of France, and the two ariſtocratical cantons of Zurich and Bern, greatly increaſed the troubles of the republic. Theſe mediators could not agree, and in the month of May, in this

A. D. 1782 year, a body of 12,000 troops, belonging to the King of France, the Swiſs Cantons and the King of Sardinia, formed the blockade of that city. In this ſtate of things, the citizens found themſelves obliged to admit the troops within their walls; and the mediating powers prepared a new code of laws for the republic of Geneva,—but ſo inconſiſtent with the liberties of the people, or the independence of the republic, that numbers of the citizens immediately reſolved to quit their country, and to ſeek ſome other region where freedom might be enjoyed.—Some attempts were made to intereſt the Britiſh miniſtry in the fate of that republic, but this was not a moment for Great Britain to exert itſelf in ſuch a cauſe. It became a reſolution, however, of many of the citizens of Geneva to quit their country and to fix their reſidence in Ireland, and agents were accordingly employed to procure them ſettlements in that kingdom, where they met with the moſt liberal encouragement from the government, from the nobility, and from the nation at large. At an aſſembly of the delegates of 34 different corps of volunteers of the province of Leinſter, it was unanimouſly reſolved, "That the virtuous citizens of Geneva, who wiſhed for an aſylum in that kingdom from the hand of tyranny and oppreſſion, deſerved their higheſt commendation, and that they who eſtabliſhed themſelves in Ireland ſhould, upon every occaſion, receive their utmoſt attention and ſupport."

The total number of veſſels which arrived at Dantzig, during this year, amounted to 502, among which there was not one under Dutch colours; and the number of thoſe which ſailed for that port during the ſame period, amounted to 549. Moſt of the Dantzig veſſels were at this time employed in carrying ſhip-building timber to England, and had very high freights.

The quantity of indigo imported into England from India during this year, was 25,575 lbs. ☞ The indigo annually exported to Great Britain from America, on an average of three years, viz. 1768, 1769, 1770, amounted to 602,973 lbs.

The Canada ſales, which are every ſpring in London, of the furs and peltry ſent the preceding year, amounted in this year to 189,000l.

It is a circumſtance which well deſerves the public attention, that Ruſſia, during this year, exported 350 tons of candles, and that ſhe has lowered the duties on that article when exported. Both the ſoap and candle trade are of conſiderable benefit to Britain and Ireland.

The average quantity of rum imported for ten years from 1773 to 1782, was 2,062,842 gallons;—ditto exported, 617,939.

The neceſſity of taking ſome effectual means to prevent the ſmuggling of wool, is evident from the increaſe of that practice. In 1770, the quantity ſeized was only 30 lbs:—in 1780, it had increaſed to 12,383 lbs.;—and in 1782, it amounted to 13,916 lbs.

The number of ſhips which were employed from England in the whale fiſhery to Davis's Streights and the Greenland Seas, during this year, amounted to 38; the bounty being at 30s. per ton. The war prevented any Dutch ſhips from engaging, at preſent, in that fiſhery.

The ſtate of inſurance of ſhips, at this period, was as follows:

From London to the Weſt Indies, with convoy, 10 per cent. or 20 to return 10.

To Jamaica, with convoy, 12 per cent. or 20 to return 8.

To New York and Halifax, with convoy, 15 guineas per cent. or 25 to return 10, if ſhips of force;—without convoy, if ſhips of force, 25 to return 8.

To Cork, Waterford, and Dublin, 6 guineas per cent.

From Ireland to the Weſt Indies, (except Jamaica) with convoy, 10 per cent. or 20 to return 10.

To Jamaica, 12 per cent. or 22 to return 10.

A. D.

1782 From Ireland to Portugal, 15 to 20 per cent. to return 5 to 10, if with convoy.

To the Mediterranean, an advance of 3 per cent.

From the Weſt Indies to Great Britain or Ireland, with convoy, 15 guineas per cent.:—without convoy, 20l. per cent. unleſs ſhips of force.

From Jamaica to any ports of Great Britain or Ireland, 25 per cent. to return 8, if without convoy; or 16 per cent. warranted with convoy.

From Liverpool, Briſtol, and Glaſgow, to New York, 25 to 30 per cent. to return 16 per cent. for convoy.

To the Weſt Indies, 20 per cent.

To Jamaica 20 per cent. to return 8 for convoy.

The revenues of Ruſſia, at this period, appear, from the moſt authentic accounts, to be as follows:—reduced into ſterling money.

	£.
Poll tax,	1,900,000
Crown lands, Great Ruſſia,	600,000
Ditto, Little Ruſſia,	209,000
Ditto, Poland,	300,000
Ditto, in Swediſh conqueſts,	80,000
Salt,	520,000
Hemp and iron,	370,000
Pot aſhes,	85,000
Cuſtoms,	260,000
Baths and licenſed houſes,	100,000
Internal duties,	560,000
Trade of Siberia,	36,000
Total,	5,020,000

Total revenues in Ruſſia amounted,	in 1720, to	2,000,000
	in 1740, to	3,600,000
	in 1760, to	4,100,000

The quantity of linen exported from Ireland to Great Britain for one year, ending with the 25th of March in the preſent year, is as follows:—linen cloth, plain, 24,692,072 yards, value 1,646,138l. 2s. 8d.;—linen, coloured, 767 yards, value 62l. 6s. 4½d.

The quantity exported from Ireland to every other country, (excluſive of Great Britain) for one year, ending with the 25th of March in the preſent year, is, linen cloth, plain, 278,231 yards, value 18,548l. 14s. 8d.; linen, coloured, 73,655¼ yards, value 5,984l. 9s. 9d.

The importation of woollen cloth from Great Britain and Ireland, during this year, was,

	Yards.
Old drapery,	362,824
New drapery,	547,336
Total,	910,160

The quantity of ribbands exported from Ireland in this year, was 19 lbs. 4 ozs.; and the amount of the manufactured ſilk exported, was 370 lbs. 3 ozs.

The following is the export of cotton yarn manufactures and mixtures of cotton from Ireland, during the preſent year:—cotton yarn, 8,798 pounds weight; manufacture and mixture of cotton to the value of 414l. 7s.

Export

A. D. 1782 Export of iron and iron ware from Ireland, in the ſame period, was, hardware to the value of 22l. 11s. 4d.; ironmongers ware, to 2l. 19s.; and wrought iron to the amount of 75 cwt. 3 qrs. 7 lbs.

The export of glaſs from Ireland in this year, was, bottles, 1,738 dozen;—glaſs ware to the value of 172l. 11s.

The importation of ſtockings into Ireland, was as follows:

	Pair.
Cotton, — — —	20,490
Silk, — — — —	360
Silk and Worſted, — — —	348
Thread, — — —	39,717
Woollen, — — —	1,617
Worſted, — — —	9,617

Export from Ireland of the ſame article, in the ſame period, was,

	Dozen.	*Pairs.*
Thread, — — —	14	0
Woollen, — — —	139	0
Worſted, — — —	138	3

The number of hats exported from Ireland in this year, amounted to 450.

The value of the upholſtery imported into that kingdom during the ſame period, was 8,977l. 17s. 11¼d.;—and the value of that exported, was 629l. 18s. 3d.

The quantity of books and paper exported from Ireland in this year, was, books, unbound, 55 cwt. 14 lb.;—writing paper, 200 reams.

An account of goods and merchandize, being the growth, product, or manufacture of Aſia, imported into Great Britain, and from thence exported to the kingdom of Ireland, from the 25th of March, 1781, incluſive, to the 25th of March, 1782.

DENOMINATIONS.	QUANTITY.		VALUE.		
	Lbs.	*Yards.*	£.	*s.*	*d.*
Stained Callico, —	—	1,836	459	0	0
White ditto, —	—	860	172	0	0
Muſlin, —	—	54,140	9,006	16	8
India Silks and Stuffs,	—	—	—		
Drugs, — —	—	—	10,121	7	6½
Cinnamon, — —	222¾	—	89	2	0
Cloves, — —	562	—	281	0	0
Mace, — —	272¼	—	226	17	6
Nutmegs, — —	3,539	—	1,769	10	0
Pepper, — —	43,401¾	—	2,893	9	0
Piemento, — —	5,392	—	269	12	0
Rice, — —	91,882	—	738	6	9
Saltpetre, — —	99,610	—	2,248	8	9
China raw Silks, —	46,694⅙	—	46,694	3	4
Bohea Tea, —	887,767	—	88,776	14	0
Green ditto, —	433,248	—	129,974	8	0

A. D. 1782 An authentic account of corn and grain exported from, and imported into England and Scotland.

EXPORTED. 1782.	Britiſh Qrs.	Foreign Qrs.	IMPORTED. 1782.	Quarters.
ENGLAND.			ENGLAND.	
Wheat, —	6,497	1,040	Wheat, —	76,079
Wheat Flour, &c.	124,495	2,332	Wheat Flour,	3,700
Rye, —	3,994	9	—— —	——
Barley, —	28,351	45	Barley, —	11,954
Malt, —	79,324	——	——	——
Oats, —	10,555	7,018	Oats, —	33,758
Oatmeal, —	2,113	40	—— —	——
Beans, —	19,493	226	Beans, —	3,619
Peas, —	5,133	860	Peas,	4,553
SCOTLAND.			SCOTLAND.	
Wheat, —	552	——	Wheat, —	666
Wheat Flour,	11,235	——	Wheat Flour, —	250
Barley and Bear,	12,935	——	Barley, —	1,638
Barley Meal, —	28	——	——	——
Malt, —	7,062	——	——	——
Oats, —	1,089	——	Oats, —	3,929
Oatmeal,	2,501	——	Oatmeal, —	875
Peas and Beans,	416	——	Peas, —	386

The bounties on corn and grain exported from England in the courſe of this year, amounted to 42,281l. 3s. 11¼d.

The drawbacks, during the ſame period, were 55l. 7s. 1d.

The amount of the bounties paid on corn and grain exported from Scotland, during the ſame time, was 5,633l. 3s. 5¼d.

The duties on corn imported into England, was 2,270l. 2s. 7d.; and, in Scotland, they amounted to 79l. 14s. 6d.

The average prices of corn in England and Wales, by the ſtandard Wincheſter buſhel, for this year, was as follows:—

Wheat, 5s. 11¾d.; rye, 3s. 7¼d.; barley, 2s. 9¾d.; oats, [illegible]s. 10¾d.; beans, 3s. 3d.

The ſeven following tables contain abundant matter of commercial intelligence. They ſhew the amount of the principal American and Weſt Indian ſtaple commodities, which were imported into or exported from Great Britain, during the year 1773, the moſt proſperous of our commerce, and during 1782, the year of the moſt general war the nation ever ſuſtained. The imports and exports of 1773, exhibit a view of our colony trade during its uſual courſe; thoſe of 1782 point out the circuitous courſe that the ingenuity of commercial enterprize had found for ventures, under the greateſt embarraſſments. The tables which ſucceed, give the total of the imports and exports of the before-mentioned ſtaple commodities for a period of ten years, ſhewing their fluctuations in peace and war, and the bad effect of war on commerce. They ſeem to prove, however, that the duties laid on during the war, had no great effect on the imports, particularly of ſugar and rum.

An

An Account of SUGAR imported into and exported from Great Britain for two years, viz. from Christmas 1772 to Christmas 1773, and from Christmas 1781 to 1782.

	ENGLAND, 1773.		SCOTLAND, 1773.		ENGLAND, 1782.		SCOTLAND, 1782.	
	Imported.	Exported.	Imported.	Exported.	Imported.	Exported.	Imported.	Exported.
	cwt. qrs. lb	cwt. qrs. lb	cwt. qrs. lb	cwt. qrs. lb	cwt. qrs. lb	cwt. qrs. lb	cwt. qrs. lb	cwt. qrs. lb
Africa,	—	268 0 10	—	—	—	125 0 11		
Canaries,	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Denmark & Norway,	—	124 3 3	—	—	—	—		
Eaſt Country,	—	26 0 0	—	—	—	70 0 21		
Eaſt Indies,	—	272 3 16	—	—	—	379 1 24		
Flanders,	—	15 0 0	—	—	—	1865 2 26		
France,	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Germany,	—	1814 1 2	—	62 2 0	—	2562 2 8	—	1722 1 26
Greenland,	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Holland,	—	147 2 14	—	1 3 10	—	—		
Ireland,	—	138856 1 4	—	55513 2 22	—	77812 0 16	—	6735 1 8
Iſle of Man,	—	1179 3 21	—	—	—	796 3 10		
Italy,	—	174 3 14	—	—	—	7 1 0		
Madeira,	—	—	—	—	—	4 0 0		
Portugal,	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Poland,	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Ruſſia,	—	—	—	—	—	252 0 21		
Spain,	—	—	—	—	—	285 1 0		
Streights,	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Sweden,	—	2541 2 21	—	8 3 24	—	—		
Turkey,	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Venice,	—	38 3 4	—	—	—	—		
Iſland of Guernſey,	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Iſland of Jerſey,	—	—	—	—	—	—		
North America, viz.								
New Providence,	1 26	—	—	—	—	—		
Canada,	—	—	—	—	—	899 1 11	—	98 3 19
Carolina,	51 1 7	—	—	87 3 2	1	—		
Florida,	24 1 4	—	—	—	—	—		
Georgia,	—	—	89 2 7	7 3 0	—	—		
Hudſon's Bay,	—	—	—	—	—	34 1 0		
New England,	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Newfoundland,	1 2	—	8 3 24	70 0 0	—	73 0 12	—	140 0 9
New York,	—	1 2 5	—	1 0 0	250 0 0	—		
Nova Scotia,	—	—	—	2 0 0	—	15 1 7	—	1 0 5
Pennſylvania,	—	—	—	—	—			
Virginia & Maryland,	1019 3 14	1 3 12	—	833 0 26	—			
Weſt Indies.								
Antigua,	80885 1 25	—	3080 0 23	20 1 11	149181 1 6	—	5498 1 24	172 3 24
Anguilla,	—	—	—	—	24422 0 9			
Barbadoes,	110911 2 4	2 0	—	11 2 14	74636 0 0			
Dominica,	44128 2 7	2 0	—	—	—			
Grenada,	198159 2 21	—	4519 1 7	13 1 3	—			
Jamaica,	1017091 1 7	2 0	40866 3 16	43 1 27	654077 3 20	—	36144 1 9	16 3 22
Montſerrat,	33776 0 25	—	—	—	31268 2 19			
Nevis,	27430 1 11	—	2939 0 9	2 0 3	32891 2 22			
St. Kitt's	106368 1 18	—	4289 1 3	18 0 24	165139 3 0			
St. Lucia,	—	—	—	—	91749 0 0	—	9185 1 8	41 2 24
St. Vincent's,	58691 1 7	—	2392 3 11	11 2 27	—			
St. Martin's, Demerara,	—	—	—	—	22963 0 11			
St. Thomas's,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2 0 15
Tobago,	14153 3 17	—	—	—	30 3 2			
Tortola,	30126 3 24	—	—	—	66412 3 1	—	6542 2 1	2 0 16
New Orleans,	—	—	—	—	—			
Honduras,	—	—	—	—	—			
Falkland Iſlands,	—	—	—	—	—			
Bermudas,	—	—	—	—	99 0 14	—	—	5 1 16
Muſquito Shore,	—	—	—	—	—			
St. Euſtatia, St. Croix,	8843 3 12	—	12101 1 23	—	1093 1 26	—	117 1 4	
	1731664 3 1	145465 0 14	70287 2 21	56673 1 25	1315025 3 17	85176 2 7	57487 3 18	8939 0 26

An ACCOUNT of RUM imported into and exported from GREAT BRITAIN for two years, viz. from CHRISTMAS 1772 to CHRISTMAS 1773, and from CHRISTMAS 1781 to 1782.

	ENGLAND, 1773.		SCOTLAND, 1773.		ENGLAND, 1782.		SCOTLAND, 1782.	
	Imported.	Exported.	Imported.	Exported.	Imported.	Exported.	Imported.	Exported.
	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.
Africa, - -	—	131145	—	—	—	13287	—	—
Canaries, - -	—	588	—	—	—	—	—	—
Denmark & Norway,	—	3370	—	—	—	201	—	—
Eaſt Country, -	—	4293	—	—	—	219	—	—
Eaſt Indies, - -	—	25503	—	—	—	23664	—	—
Flanders, - -	—	10521	—	—	—	46424	—	—
France, - -	—	575	—	—	—	—	—	—
Germany, - -	—	6824	—	—	—	455	—	—
Greenland, - -	—	—	—	—	—	304	—	—
Holland, - -	—	18108	—	3159½	—	—	—	—
Ireland, - - -	—	538557	—	60374	—	114113	—	110907
Iſle of Man, - -	—	25582	—	—	—	21072	—	—
Italy, - - -	—	17085	—	—	—	1707	—	—
Madeira, - -	—	—	—	—	—	119	—	—
Portugal, - -	—	769	—	—	—	583	—	—
Poland, - -	—	—	—	101	—	—	—	—
Ruſſia, - -	—	1955	—	—	—	429	—	—
Spain, - -	—	18469	—	534	—	—	—	—
Streights, - -	—	478	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sweden, - -	—	226	—	—	—	640	—	—
Turkey, - -	—	3370	—	—	—	—	—	—
Venice, - -	—	1352	—	—	—	335	—	—
Iſland of Guernſey,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Iſland of Jerſey, -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North America, viz.								
New Providence, -	10057	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Canada, - -	—	767	—	—	—	143655	—	—
Carolina, - -	1764	980	104	2267	—	572	—	3953½
Florida, - -	—	1568	—	—	—	—	—	—
Georgia, - -	79	233	—	203	—	—	—	—
Hudſon's Bay, -	—	544	—	—	—	333	—	—
New England, -	917	422	—	—	—	—	—	—
Newfoundland, -	—	1031	—	—	—	9416	—	2086
New York, - -	337	317	—	—	114	4828	—	12139
Nova Scotia, -	—	111	—	—	3	118	—	8941
Pennſylvania, -	351	—	—	265	—	—	—	—
Virginia & Maryland,	397	7795	73	5435	—	—	—	—
Weſt Indies.								
Antigua, - -	3297	—	5055½	—	142198	489	11150½	102
Anguilla, - -	—	—	—	—	70	—	—	—
Barbadoes, - -	8629	428	—	—	9573	949	—	—
Dominica, - -	10951	1101	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grenada, - -	63664	222	10845½	—	—	—	—	—
Jamaica, -	1994478	1524	127412½	—	1295597	4391	126803	104
Montſerrat, -	2343	312	—	—	504	—	—	—
Nevis, - -	4426	—	—	—	18307	—	—	—
St. Kitt's -	6664	103	58	—	90120	—	12790	—
St. Lucia, - -	—	—	—	—	8744	2117	—	—
St. Vincent's, -	26071	1514	107	—	—	—	—	—
St. Martin's, Demerara,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Thomas's, -	—	—	—	—	—	166	—	206
Tobago, - -	3171	339	—	—	179	—	—	—
Tortola, - -	975	404	—	—	5779	1619	—	—
New Orleans, -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Honduras, - -	37	618	—	—	—	—	—	—
Falkland Iſlands, -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bermudas, - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Muſquito Shore, -	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Euſtatia, St. Croix,	—	—	—	—	5437	—	—	—
	2138631	828803	143655½	72338½	1587981	392145	150743½	138438½

An ACCOUNT of TOBACCO imported into and exported from GREAT BRITAIN, for two years, viz. from CHRISTMAS 1772 to CHRISTMAS 1773, and from CHRISTMAS 1781 to 1782.

	ENGLAND, 1773.		SCOTLAND, 1773.		ENGLAND, 1782.		SCOTLAND, 1782.	
	Imported.	Exported.	Imported.	Exported.	Imported.	Exported.	Imported.	Exported.
	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
Africa, - -	—	990873	—	—	—	54447	—	—
Canaries, - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Denmark and Norway,	—	2573284	—	812650	—	50497	1408	—
Eaſt Country, -	—	265019	—	—	—	15433	—	—
Eaſt Indies, - -	—	53915	—	—	—	24115	—	—
Flanders, - -	—	7150737	—	—	8017	107452	2318	—
France, - -	—	7343883	—	24406240	—	124748	—	—
Germany, - -	—	11953577	—	1982347	24938	129915	—	—
Greenland, - -	—	1521	—	—	—	—	—	—
Holland, - -	—	14371835	—	14629050	—	14907	3212	—
Ireland, - -	—	1855923	—	4333850	—	1048769	—	922875
Iſle of Man, -	—	—	—	—	—	30370	—	—
Italy, - -	—	1378156	—	—	—	—	—	—
Madeira, - -	—	100	—	—	—	—	—	—
Portugal, - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poland, - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ruſſia, - -	—	22048	—	—	—	1364	—	—
Spain, - -	—	229722	—	—	—	—	—	—
Streights, - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sweden, - -	—	1076078	—	—	—	3983	11750	—
Turkey, - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Venice, - -	—	25209	—	—	—	—	—	—
Iſland of Guernſey,	—	562944	—	—	—	—	—	—
Iſland of Jerſey, -	—	262167	—	—	—	—	—	—
North America, viz.								
New Providence, -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Canada, - -	—	98569	—	16782	—	64647	—	1304
Carolina, - -	963707	6755	1651793	10926	46810	600	—	—
Florida, - -	—	1558	—	—	105291	—	—	—
Georgia, - -	49840	4211	7276	620	—	—	—	—
Hudſon's Bay, -	—	1756	—	—	—	1604	—	—
New England, -	—	4830	—	17892	—	—	—	—
Newfoundland, -	—	33581	—	—	—	32580	—	4905
New York, - -	64	8747	—	2114	224562	108	1025751	120
Nova Scotia, - -	—	3045	—	—	61911	365	—	—
Pennſylvania, - -	—	—	—	112	—	—	—	—
Virginia & Maryland,	54915282	7458	42883981	—	—	—	—	—
Weſt Indies.								
Antigua, - -	50	115	—	—	118169	420	3310	600
Anguilla, - -	—	—	—	—	122586	—	—	—
Barbadoes, - -	—	11414	—	18637	4578	1713	—	238
Dominica, - -	—	7114	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grenada, - -	—	3126	—	356	—	—	—	—
Jamaica, - -	—	45841	—	4934	71130	9302	—	3667
Montſerrat, -	—	1111	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nevis, - -	—	1789	—	—	—	172	—	—
St. Kitt's, - -	—	891	—	1428	1928	—	—	—
St. Lucia, - -	—	—	—	—	42039	367	—	306
St. Vincent's, - -	14	1871	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Martin's, Demerara,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Thomas's, -	—	—	—	—	289402	1268	—	280
Tobago, - -	—	10373	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tortola, - -	—	10155	—	—	3274909	343	1505057	—
New Orleans, -	—	—	—	—	18570	—	—	—
Honduras, - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Falkland Iſlands,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bermudas, -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Muſquito Shore, -	—	674	—	—	—	—	72170	—
Euſtatia and St. Croix,	—	—	44	—	—	—	—	—
	55928957	50386925	44543050	46389518	7203262	2529146	2624982	934295

An ACCOUNT of RICE imported into and exported from GREAT BRITAIN, for two years, viz. from CHRISTMAS 1772 to CHRISTMAS 1773, and from CHRISTMAS 1781 to 1782.

	ENGLAND, 1773.		SCOTLAND, 1773.		ENGLAND, 1782.		SCOTLAND, 1782.	
	Imported.	Exported.	Imported.	Exported.	Imported.	Exported.	Imported.	Exported.
	cwt. qrs. lb	cwt. qrs. lb	cwt. qrs. lb	cwt. qrs. lb	cwt. qrs. lb	cwt. qrs. lb	cwt. qrs. lb	cwt. qrs. lb
Africa,	45 1 25	6489 3 3	—	—	12 0 14	57 2 4	—	—
Canaries,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Denmark and Norway,	—	6619 2 8	—	63 1 14	—	1302 3 16	—	—
East Country,	—	3904 0 18	—	—	—	56 1 4	—	—
East Indies,	4 1 7	—	—	—	4 3 20	30 1 0	—	—
Flanders,	—	24910 3 12	—	—	—	1280 2 12	—	—
France,	—	31985 3 20	—	—	—	—	—	—
Germany,	—	15241 0 10	—	7027 3 0	—	1748 3 2	—	—
Greenland,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	608 0 0
Holland,	—	242693 0 0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ireland,	—	1690 2 11	—	155 3 3	—	55 1 23	—	—
Iſle of Man,	—	4 0 0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Italy,	—	1636 2 0	—	—	135 3 3	4 2 0	—	—
Madeira,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Portugal,	—	5612 2 0	—	402 2 16	2404 1 14	—	—	—
Poland,	—	—	—	2892 1 11	—	—	—	—
Ruſſia,	—	1279 0 10	—	—	—	—	—	—
Spain,	—	16657 2 20	—	—	—	—	—	—
Streights,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sweden,	—	1822 0 0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Turkey,	—	679 0 0	—	—	6 1 14	—	—	—
Venice,	—	—	—	—	1 2 7	—	—	—
Iſland of Guernſey,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Iſland of Jerſey,	—	47 3 0	—	—	—	—	—	—
North America, viz.								
New Providence,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Canada,	—	—	—	—	—	784 1 25	—	56 1 27
Carolina,	370290 2 5	—	8492 1 27	—	76 1 19	—	—	—
Florida,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Georgia,	72469 1 10	—	3350 0 7	—	13 0 13	—	—	—
Hudſon's Bay,	—	—	—	—	—	8 0 0	—	—
New England,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Newfoundland,	—	46 1 4	—	—	—	—	—	—
New York,	2454 3 14	—	—	—	60 1 0	—	—	—
Nova Scotia,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pennſylvania,	3857 3 18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Virginia & Maryland,	—	14 0 7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Weſt Indies.								
Antigua,	—	1 0 7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Anguilla,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barbadoes,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dominica,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grenada,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jamaica,	—	—	—	—	—	29 0 6	—	—
Monſerrat,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nevis,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Kitt's,	—	—	—	—	1 2 10	—	—	—
St. Lucia,								
St. Vincent's,								
St. Martin's, Demerara,								
St. Thomas's,								
Tobago,								
Tortola,								
New Orleans,								
Honduras,								
Falkland Iſlands,								
Bermudas,								
Muſquito Shore,								
Euſtatia and St. Croix,								
	457122 1 23	361334 3 18	11842 2 6	10541 3 14	2716 2 2	5357 3 8	—	664 1 27

An Account of INDIGO imported into and exported from Great Britain, for two years, viz. from Christmas 1772 to Christmas 1773, and from Christmas 1781 to 1782.

	England, 1773.		Scotland, 1773.		England, 1782.		Scotland, 1782.	
	Imported.	Exported.	Imported.	Exported.	Imported.	Exported.	Imported.	Exported.
	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
Africa,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Canaries,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Denmark & Norway,	—	4023	—	—	—	8267	—	—
Eaſt Country,	—	414	—	—	—	1212	—	—
Eaſt Indies,	—	—	—	—	25535	—	—	—
Flanders,	67413	44049	—	—	78070	26701	—	—
France,	15070	48727	—	—	—	—	—	—
Germany,	656	118770	—	—	2330	58443	—	—
Greenland,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Holland,	2100	46352	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ireland,	443	87701	—	—	6373	40084	—	—
Iſle of Man,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Italy,	—	107527	—	—	—	1007	—	—
Madeira,	—	850	—	—	—	—	—	—
Portugal,	20	735	—	—	27308	—	—	—
Poland,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ruſſia,	—	69347	—	—	—	33515	—	—
Spain,	17442	2220	—	—	200	—	—	—
Streights,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sweden,	—	47371	—	—	—	12591	—	—
Turkey,	—	13333	—	—	—	—	—	—
Venice,	—	13245	—	—	—	—	—	—
Iſland of Guernſey,	—	—	—	—	1120	—	—	—
Iſland of Jerſey,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North America, viz.							—	
New Providence,	5760	148	—	—	—	—	—	—
Canada,	—	—	—	—	—	542	—	—
Carolina,	1107660	—	1811	—	133683	—	—	—
Florida,	14685	—	—	—	125533	—	—	—
Georgia,	55380	—	767	—	13070	—	—	—
Hudſon's Bay,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
New England,	11339	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Newfoundland,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
New York,	1800	—	—	—	11660	—	2803	—
Nova Scotia,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pennſylvania,	20945	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Virginia & Maryland,	3432	86	346	—	—	—	—	—
Weſt Indies.								
Antigua,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Anguilla,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barbadoes,	—	—	—	—	875	—	—	—
Dominica,	1000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grenada,	66782	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jamaica,	47883	—	—	—	23368	—	—	—
Montſerrat,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nevis,	—	—	—	—	115	—	—	—
St. Kitt's	—	—	—	—	70	—	—	—
St. Lucia,	—	—	—	—	1027	—	—	—
St. Vincent's,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Martin's, Demerara,	—	—	—	—	1241	—	—	—
St. Thomas's,	—	—	—	—	8843	—	—	—
Tobago,	2200	—	—	—	4050	—	—	—
Tortola,	—	—	—	—	37872	—	982	—
New Orleans,	—	—	—	—	64200	—	—	—
Honduras,	43793	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Falkland Iſlands,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bermudas,	5000	—	—	—	2900	—	207	—
Muſquito Shore,	27749	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Euſtatia, St. Croix,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1518552	604898	2924	—	569443	182362	3992	—

An Account of COCHINEAL imported into and exported from Great Britain, for two years, viz. from Christmas 1772 to Christmas 1773, and from Christmas 1781 to 1782.

	England, 1773.		Scotland, 1773.		England, 1782.		Scotland, 1782.	
	Imported.	Exported.	Imported.	Exported.	Imported.	Exported.	Imported.	Exported.
	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
Africa, - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Canaries, - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Denmark & Norway,	—	754	—	—	—	361	—	—
Eaſt Country, -	—	—	—	—	—	25	—	—
Eaſt Indies, - -	—	9682	—	—	—	813	—	—
Flanders, - -	1040	1070	—	—	100016	490	—	—
France, - -	—	3522	—	—	—	—	—	54
Germany, - -	—	1421	—	—	—	2973	—	—
Greenland, - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Holland, - -	5061	14767	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ireland, - - -	411	799	—	—	—	4220	—	—
Iſle of Man, - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Italy, - - -	—	1310	—	—	—	—	—	—
Madeira, - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Portugal, - -	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poland, - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ruſſia, - -	—	9348	—	—	—	5070	—	—
Spain, - -	161876	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Streights, - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sweden, - -	—	707	—	—	—	713	—	—
Turkey, - -	—	532	—	—	—	—	—	—
Venice, - -	—	231	—	—	—	—	—	—
Iſland of Guernſey,	—	—	—	—	1200	—	—	—
Iſland of Jerſey, -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North America, viz.								
New Providence, -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Canada, - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carolina, - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Florida, - -	407	—	—	—	3000	—	—	—
Georgia, - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hudſon's Bay, -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
New England, -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Newfoundland, -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
New York, - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nova Scotia, -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pennſylvania, -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Virginia & Maryland,	500	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Weſt Indies.								
Antigua, - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Anguilla, - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barbadoes, - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dominica, - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grenada, - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jamaica, -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Montſerrat, -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nevis, - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Kitt's -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Lucia, - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Vincent's. -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Martin's, Demerara,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Thomas's, -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tobago, - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tortola, - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
New Orleans, -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Honduras, - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Falkland Iſlands, -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bermudas, - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Muſquito Shore, -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Euſtatia, St. Croix,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	169245	44153	—	—	104216	14665	—	54

An ACCOUNT of COFFEE imported into and exported from GREAT BRITAIN, for two years, viz. from CHRISTMAS 1772 to CHRISTMAS 1773, and from CHRISTMAS 1781 to 1782.

	ENGLAND, 1773.					SCOTLAND, 1773.	
	Imported.	For. Plant. imported.	E. Indies, exported.	Brit. Planta. exported.	For. Plant. exported.	Brit. Plant. imported.	Brit. Plant. exported.
	cwt. qrs. lb	cwt. qrs. lb	cwt. qrs. lb	cwt. qrs. lb	cwt. qrs. lb	cwt. qrs. lb	cwt. qrs. lb
Africa,	—	—	1 22	10 2 16	—	—	—
Canaries,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Denmark and Norway,	—	—	182 0 9	1436 1 22	—	—	—
East Country,	—	—	13 0 15	57 2 18	—	—	—
East Indies,	4 1 0	—	3 0	—	—	—	—
Flanders,	—	—	760 3 21	—	—	—	—
France,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Germany,	—	—	452 2 8	26508 3 0	5789 2 5	—	15 1 16
Greenland,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Holland,	—	—	604 3 16	12181 0 9	115 2 1	—	—
Ireland,	—	—	248 0 8	60 3 6	—	—	—
Iſle of Man,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Italy,	13 0 1	—	1493 1 0	953 2 24	184 0 16	—	—
Madeira,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Portugal,	—	—	—	97 1 3	—	—	—
Poland,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ruſſia,	—	—	—	95 2 6	—	—	—
Spain,	2 11	—	2 2 20	2 3 0	—	—	—
Streights,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sweden,	—	—	—	934 3 23	—	—	—
Turkey,	—	—	113 2 26	110 2 12	—	—	—
Venice,	—	—	21 3 14	599 0 0	—	—	—
Iſland of Guernſey,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Iſland of Jerſey,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North America, viz.							
New Providence,	4 1 0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Canada,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carolina,	359 1 6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Florida,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Georgia,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hudſon's Bay,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
New England,	1 3 0	—	2 2 16	—	—	—	—
Newfoundland,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
New York,	37 0 14	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nova Scotia,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pennſylvania,	21 1 10	180 0 0	—	—	—	—	—
Virginia & Maryland,	—	—	2 1 7	—	—	—	—
Weſt Indies.							
Antigua,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Anguilla,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barbadoes,	33 2 22	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dominica,	15709 1 15	8562 0 16	—	—	—	—	—
Grenada,	17696 2 0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jamaica,	3770 1 5	—	—	—	—	4 3 24	—
Montſerrat,	600 3 25	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nevis,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Kitt's,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Lucia,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Vincent's,	7348 0 6	—	—	—	—	64 1 13	—
St. Martin's, Demerara,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Thomas's,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tobago,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tortola,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
New Orleans,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Honduras,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Falkland Iſlands,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bermudas,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Muſquito Shore,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Euſtatia and St. Croix,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	44988 2 19	8742 0 16	3899 1 14	43319 0 9	6089 0 22	69 1 9	15 1 16

☞ The particulars from whence imported, or where exported to, are not diſtinguiſhed in the account ſent from the Cuſtom-houſe for 1782.—The totals are as follows:

SCOTLAND.

	cwt.	qrs.	lb.
Coffee exported,	4649	1	17
Ditto imported,	1045	1	20

ENGLAND.

	cwt.	qrs.	lb.
Exported Britiſh Coffee,	24884	2	0
—— Foreign,	495	2	20
Imported Britiſh,	28200	2	7
—— Foreign,	443	3	3

1782 TOTALS of SUGAR, RUM, MELASSES, TOBACCO, INDIGO, RICE and COCHINEAL, imported into and exported from England, for ten Years, ending at Chriſtmas, 1782.

S U G A R.

	Imported into England.			*Exported from England.*								
				LONDON.			OUT-PORTS.			TOTALS.		
Years.	*Cwt.*	*qrs.*	*lbs.*	*Cwt.*	*qrs.*	*lbs.*	*Cwt.*	*qrs.*	*lbs.*	*Cwt.*	*qrs.*	*lbs.*
1773	1,731,664	3	1	59,017	0	3	86,448	0	11	145,465	0	14
1774	1,962,403	1	0	103,461	2	21	81,412	3	21	181,874	2	14
1775	1,940,069	0	2	192,715	1	21	106,134	2	24	298,850	0	17
1776	1,669,066	0	4	52,962	3	21	138,609	2	1	191,572	1	22
1777	1,335,421	0	20	34,025	0	4	94,266	2	6	128,291	2	10
1778	1,403,995	1	13	12,560	3	8	68,203	1	2	80,764	0	10
1779	1,441,945	3	1	7,462	3	15	55,685	1	2	63,148	0	17
1780	1,318,515	9	9	14,627.	2	24	82,507	0	17	97,134	3	13
1781	1,026,177	0	14	39,000	2	0	95,036	3	8	134,037	1	8
1782	1,315,025	3	17	6,665	0	17	78,511	2	10	85,176	2	27

R U M.

	Imported into England.	*Exported from England.*		
		LONDON.	OUT-PORTS.	TOTALS.
Years.	*Gallons.*	*Gallons.*	*Gallons.*	*Gallons.*
1773	2,138,631	464,591	364,212	828,803
1774	1,705,338	309,020	329,363	638,383
1775	2,309,977	166,515	523,786	690,301
1776	3,346,759	224,267	241,410	465,677
1777	2,069,644	248,216	574,064	822,280
1778	2,457,084	139,521	486,869	626,390
1779	2,161,878	251,004	481,654	732,658
1780	1,621,148	483,355	337,174	820,529
1781	1,229,987	116,373	45,859	162,232
1782	1,587,981	117,232	274,913	392,145

M E L A S S E S.

	Imported into England.				*Exported from England.*											
					LONDON.				OUT-PORTS.				TOTALS.			
Years.	*Tons.*	*cwt.*	*qrs.*	*lbs.*	*Tons.*	*cwt.*	*qrs.*	*lbs.*	*Tons.*	*cwt.*	*qrs.*	*lbs.*	*Tons.*	*cwt.*	*qrs.*	*lbs.*
1773	61	6	2	20	7	6	3	24	0	0	0	0	7	6	3	24
1774	27	2	1	17	26	8	2	6	0	0	0	0	26	8	2	6
1775	74	5	2	11	0	0	0	0	7	11	2	21	7	11	2	21
1776	256	13	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	15	0	0
1777	511	9	1	24	29	9	2	12	61	1	2	2	90	11	0	14
1778	637	15	1	27	27	8	0	24	145	10	2	4	172	18	3	0
1779	59	14	0	21	9	4	0	24	13	11	3	10	22	16	0	6
1780	28	16	1	14	0	10	0	24	4	17	1	8	5	7	2	4
1781	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1782	12	7	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

TOBACCO.

A. D. 1782

TOBACCO.

Years.		*Imported into England.*	*Exported from England.*		
		Pounds Wt.	LONDON. *Pounds Wt.*	OUT-PORTS. *Pounds Wt.*	TOTALS. *Pounds Wt.*
1773	Not Prize,	55,928,957	35,248,119	15,138,806	50,386,925
	Prize,	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
	Total,	55,928,957	35,248,119	15,138,806	50,386,925
1774	Not Prize,	56,048,393	29,125,332	15,694,519	44,819,851
	Prize,	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
	Total,	56,048,393	29,125,332	15,695,519	44,819,851
1775	Not Prize,	55,965,463	33,769,986	10,110,879	43,880,865
	Prize,	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
	Total,	55,965,463	33,769,986	10,110,879	43,880,865
1776	Not Prize,	7,275,037	13,729,926	2,791,486	16,521,412
	Prize,	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
	Total,	7,275,037	13,729,926	2,791,486	16,521,412
1777	Not Prize,	233,722	1,996,960	575,934	2,572,894
	Prize,	1,912,329	332,512	0 0	332,512
	Total,	2,146,051	2,329,472	575,934	2,905,406
1778	Not Prize,	655,124	609,481	762,412	1,381,893
	Prize,	8,422,029	325,839	360,443	686,282
	Total,	9,077,153	935,320	1,122,855	2,068,175
1779	Not Prize,	4,365,115	458,856	534,041	992,897
	Prize,	9,652,316	1,148,825	1,562,714	2,711,539
	Total,	14,017,431	1,607,681	2,096,755	3,704,436
1780	Not Prize,	7,354,405	402,269	1,341,276	1,743,545
	Prize,	4,944,767	502,183	577,277	1,079,460
	Total,	12,299,172	904,452	1,918,553	2,823,005
1781	Not Prize,	5,131,639	867,579	1,331,929	2,199,508
	Prize,	6,255,086	1,204,959	546,348	1,751,307
	Total,	11,386,725	2,072,538	1,878,277	3,950,815
1782	Not Prize,	4,414,840	557,967	1,161,022	1,718,989
	Prize,	2,788,422	612,752	197,405	810,157
	Total,	7,203,262	1,170,719	1,358,427	2,529,146

RICE.

RICE.

	Imported into England.			*Exported from England.* LONDON.			OUT-PORTS.			TOTALS.		
Years.	*Cwt.*	*qrs.*	*lbs.*	*Cwt.*	*qrs.*	*lbs.*	*Cwt.*	*qrs.*	*lbs.*	*Cwt.*	*qrs.*	*lbs.*
1773	457,122	1	23	73,933	2	5	287,401	1	13	361,334	3	18
1774	425,359	3	20	67,536	0	18	236,651	2	8	304,187	2	26
1775	577,149	0	22	59,782	1	1	323,698	0	18	383,480	1	19
1776	6,436	0	27	36,420	0	8	6,682	3	15	43,102	3	23
1777	13,016	1	20	20,047	1	25	5,477	1	6	25,524	3	3
1778	11,431	0	3	5,049	2	21	4,861	2	22	9,911	1	15
1779	65	0	14	576	2	5	1,018	1	0	1,594	3	5
1780	822	3	14	721	3	6	204	0	16	925	3	22
1781	40,146	2	12	15,055	0	4	5,696	2	19	20,751	2	23
1782	2,716	2	2	4,294	3	2	1,063	0	6	5,357	3	8

INDIGO.

	Imported into England.		*Exported from England.* LONDON.	OUT-PORTS.	TOTALS.
Years.	*Pounds Wt.*		*Pounds Wt.*	*Pounds Wt.*	*Pounds Wt.*
1773	1,518,552	———	596,391	8,507	604,898
1774	1,917,055	———	640,510	7,118	647,628
1775	2,454,811	———	611,025	13,745	624,770
1776	785,671	———	448,377	6,654	455,031
1777	818,458	———	269,687	14,169	283,856
1778	756,798	———	151,870	19,205	171,075
1779	733,730	———	222,538	58,108	280,646
1780	511,549	———	238,306	84,081	322,387
1781	1,032,610	———	593,751	72,459	666,210
1782	569,443	———	141,214	41,148	182,362

COCHINEAL.

	Imported into England.		*Exported from England.* LONDON.	OUT-PORTS.	TOTALS.
Years.	*Pounds Wt.*		*Pounds Wt.*	*Pounds Wt.*	*Pounds Wt.*
1773	169,245	———	44,093	60	44,153
1774	238,415	———	44,695	0	44,695
1775	198,053	———	59,948	188	60,136
1776	211,147	———	37,200	405	37,605
1777	194,159	———	18,888	395	19,283
1778	130,255	———	21,913	2,047	23,960
1779	100,891	———	8,780	4,742	13,522
1780	99,057	———	8,744	3,758	12,502
1781	124,566	———	12,713	5,307	18,020
1782	104,216	———	10,445	4,220	14,665

A. D. 1782

An ACCOUNT of all RICE, INDIGO, COCHINEAL, TOBACCO, SUGARS, MELASSES and RUM imported into Scotland for ten Years, ending at Chriſtmas, 1782.

	RICE.			INDIGO.	COCHINEAL.			TOBACCO.		SUGARS.			MELASSES.			RUM.
								MANUFACTURED.	UNMANUFACTURED.							
YEARS.	cwt.	qrs.	lb.	lb.	cwt.	qrs.	lb.	lb.	lb.	cwt.	qrs.	lb.	cwt.	qrs.	lb.	gallons.
1773	11,842	2	6	2,924	0	0	0	0	44,543,050	70,287	2	21	12	1	20	143,655½
1774	241	2	24	6,690	0	0	0	30	41,348,295	66,157	0	10	12	1	29	183,602
1775	589	1	24	4,371	1	0	0	0	45,863,154	81,000	2	21	0	0	0	188,153½
1776	0	0	0	5,139	0	0	0	100	7,423,363	57,135	3	8	22	2	2	268,058
1777	94	3	4	1,523	0	0	0	267	294,896	80,253	3	4	253	0	0	200,084½
1778	1,596	0	0	22,156	0	0	0	6	2,884,374	117,285	2	4	545	1	1	511,820
1779	31	1	23	28,247	0	1	0	12	3,138,464	97,481	0	12	2,939	0	3	194,352
1780	220	1	4	6,318	0	0	17½	157	5,125,638	77,041	3	10	803	1	22	145,625½
1781	2,682	3	13	16,042	0	1	2	100	1,952,243	58,379	1	11	0	0	0	144,521½
1782	0	0	0	3,992	0	1	26	175	2,624,807	57,487	3	18	0	0	0	150,743½

An ACCOUNT of all RICE, INDIGO, COCHINEAL, TOBACCO, SUGARS, MELASSES and RUM exported from Scotland for ten Years, ending at Chriſtmas, 1782.

	RICE.			INDIGO.	COCHINEAL	TOBACCO.		SUGARS.						MELASSES.			RUM.
						MANUFACTURED.	UNMANUFACTURED.	REFINED.			RAW.						
YEARS.	cwt.	qrs.	lb.	lb.	b.	lb.	lb.	cwt.	qrs.	lb.	cwt.	qrs.	lb.	cwt.	qrs.	lb.	gallons.
1773	10,541	3	16	0	0	41,783	46,347,735	1,235	1	18	55,438	0	7	0	0	0	72,338½
1774	73	0	0	18	0	62,742	33,794,322	1,576	2	8	38,911	3	19	0	0	0	50,745
1775	5	0	0	0	0	95,352	30,228,949	1,354	3	24	46,178	1	0	3	0	7	151,041
1776	0	0	0	0	0	234,216	23,467,162	1,742	2	4	30,087	2	7	40	1	25	48,575½
1777	1,244	3	7	672	0	109,009	5,406,668	4,343	1	12	34,899	2	3	215	2	5	130,296
1778	1,413	2	1	245	0	77,986	2,296,622	2,488	1	2	63,056	2	3	96	2	0	186,598½
1779	3	3	2	56	0	128,923	2,339,649	1,456	0	2	48,634	1	2	651	0	3	409,133
1780	0	0	0	696	0	102,304	3,024,867	2,653	3	19	27,045	0	1	569	0	26	56,951
1781	860	2	15	2,680	0	213,322	1,574,735	1,308	2	9	37,719	0	11	840	3	20	63,243
1782	664	1	27	0	0	233,458	700,837.	878	3	2	8,060	1	24	216	3	12	138,438½

The apparent minuteneſs of the foregoing tables, will, we hope, be ſufficiently attoned for by their uſefulneſs. By detail only, in ſuch matters, we arrive at certitude. It is eaſy to perceive the increaſe or decline of a general commerce, but we can only diſcover the cauſes producing theſe effects, by examining the component parts,—by obſerving their various movements, their advantages and drawbacks. It is this that gratifies the intelligent and reflecting mind. One thing muſt particularly ſtrike us in peruſing theſe tables, and that is, the aſtoniſhing manner in which the commercial national ſpirit maintained its level, and roſe above the preſſure of the moſt formidable and extended maritime war this country ever experienced. This is eminently obſervable in our Weſt India trade, againſt which the naval force of the enemy was principally directed; for, excepting the calamitous year of 1781, when thoſe fortuitous cauſes, which frequently blaſt the moſt vigorous exertions of human induſtry, occaſioned a conſiderable failure in our imports of ſugar and rum, no very ſtriking diminution is to be perceived during the courſe of the war; at leaſt, not in any manner proportionate to what

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1782 what the exigencies of the times might warrant. Our American trade, however, during the ſame period, preſents us a different aſpect, where the buſineſs of war put, in a great meaſure, an entire ſtop to that of commerce: ſuch caſual interruptions are ſometimes indeed unavoidable, but they ſhould be obviated as ſoon as poſſible; for no war, even the moſt fortunate, if continued for a length of time, can be profitable to a commercial people.

Having now arrived at that period, when commerce is once more about to return to its cuſtomary channels, we ſhall again reſume our account of the national exports and imports. It would have afforded but little ſatisfaction to have purſued this ſubject, amidſt thoſe diſtractions and embarraſſments inſeparable from a ſtate of hoſtility, ſince nothing deciſive could be fairly deduced therefrom; for, in ſuch a ſtate, things being thrown out of their natural order, many of our trading intercourſes entirely cut off, and all, in a greater or leſſer degree, obſtructed, no juſt eſtimate can be formed of the aggregate balance, or what ſhare our uſual trade with particular countries has in raiſing or depreſſing it. For the gratification, however, of thoſe who may wiſh to know the ſituation of our commercial affairs at this trying period, we have ſubjoined an account of them during the laſt two years of the war; where, even there, they will find cauſe for exultation: ſince, ſo far from falling into that annihilation which was predicted by ſome viſionary ſpeculiſts, it ſtill maintained a moſt reſpectable footing, and fully evinced the impracticability of ſuddenly demoliſhing a vaſt commercial ſtructure, when once founded in wiſdom, directed by judgment, and ſupported with vigour and the genuine ſpirit of enterprize.

An ACCOUNT of the VALUE of all GOODS, WARES and MERCHANDIZE, exported from, and imported into SCOTLAND, from CHRISTMAS, 1780, to CHRISTMAS, 1782, diſtinguiſhing each Year and Place.

	From CHRISTMAS 1780, to CHRISTMAS 1781.						From CHRISTMAS 1781, to CHRISTMAS 1782.					
PLACES.	Value of Goods, &c. EXPORTED.			Value of Goods, &c. IMPORTED.			Value of Goods, &c. EXPORTED.			Value of Goods, &c. IMPORTED.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
America, —	183,620	10	2	49,826	19	2	73,311	4	—	110,637	10	5
Weſt Indies, —	141,220	9	6	169,375	11	1	231,762	17	10	132,791	18	5
Denmark and Norway,	35,011	11	1	28,181	19	—	34,575	11	5	31,640	10	7
Flanders, —	56,452	6	10	45,803	19	4	65,559	8	2	92,300	4	2
Germany, —	26,458	11	3	26,659	2	6	19,417	17	2	13,636	15	8
Greenland, —	—	—	—	8,291	13	3	—	—	—	1,420	16	—
Guernſey, —	17,285	5	—	5,197	10	8	1,782	—	2	5,940	14	5
Holland, —	—	—	—	13,563	8	5	—	—	—	6,522	6	8
Iceland, —	—	—	—	465	1	3	—	—	—	37	10	—
Jerſey, —	—	—	—	245	18	10	—	—	—	1,230	6	8
Ireland, —	305,167	11	11	195,685	13	—	201,182	19	10	149,889	19	4
Iſle of Man, —	1,818	18	6	802	6	—	176	19	1	253	4	—
Italy, —	—	—	—	—	—	—	975	—	—	—	—	—
Poland, —	161	6	1	7,389	19	—	43	11	—	12,695	13	9
Portugal, —	678	14	9	14,614	10	—	2,800	15	10	8,657	13	1
Pruſſia, —	82	5	4	9,648	11	9	3,325	2	2	14,863	5	10
Ruſſia, —	5,915	5	—	209,325	1	8	11,165	8	8	203,804	14	8
Sweden, —	4,793	13	7	18,793	7	11	7,629	18	6	22,698	12	—
Total,	763,109	9	—	803,870	12	10	653,703	13	10	809,021	15	8

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IMPORTS and EXPORTS, for the YEARS 1781, and 1782, ending at CHRISTMAS.

COUNTRIES.	1781. IMPORTS. £.	s.	d.	1781. EXPORTS. £.	s.	d.	1782. IMPORTS. £.	s.	d.	1782. EXPORTS. £.	s.	d.
Africa,	36,386	8	10	312,822	7	10	68,475	16	5	351,734	18	5
Canaries,	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,341	12	11	—	—	—
Denmark and Norway,	94,639	1	10	172,012	19	9	73,038	9	2	164,732	2	4
Eaſt Country,	447,845	8	6	86,848	19	3	332,738	7	2	130,524	7	9
Eaſt India,	2,526,339	2	2	595,131	18	2	626,319	8	5	1,467,844	10	11
Flanders,	1,204,860	4	5	1,968,383	11	3	1,083,092	6	5	2,069,983	7	1
France,	1,909	14	4	873	12	—	4,783	13	6	8,153	11	2
Germany,	617,185	6	5	1,000,078	11	2	524,882	14	2	1,549,745	11	8
Greenland,	28,255	13	1	—	—	—	39,536	1	2	91	4	—
Holland,	100,048	18	11	313,487	7	10	2,485	12	7	90,933	17	4
Ireland,	1,433,835	15	2	1,769,589	19	1	1,348,510	11	10	1,715,889	—	7
Iſle of Man,	11,204	17	10	19,418	19	9	15,644	9	6	28,059	12	8
Italy,	133,645	18	—	262,760	7	4	177,698	8	8	488,163	10	4
Madeira,	2,433	8	2	24,000	9	10	3,867	7	6	50,256	13	2
Portugal,	355,723	3	—	523,493	7	3	280,654	14	6	687,324	11	10
Ruſſia,	1,206,806	18	7	137,967	6	7	1,185,844	14	4	196,577	9	10
Spain,	114,492	7	2	—	—	—	144,541	12	5	—	—	—
Gibraltar,	994	2	4	3,550	5	6	21	9	2	4,046	19	4
Streights,	—	—	—	6,165	10	—	344	3	4	9,451	10	—
Sweden,	212,414	19	11	62,510	8	10	163,219	7	11	56,083	2	7
Turkey,	24,180	2	6	1,562	19	10	41,325	10	7	4,248	3	—
Venice,	37,035	12	3	17,819	16	3	53,540	16	4	42,113	4	—
Alderney,	7	—	—	1,733	14	1	38	10	—	2,148	4	5
Guernſey,	80,333	12	1	55,077	8	8	56,298	6	—	61,693	19	1
Jerſey,	14,535	15	1	18,987	11	2	13,347	14	9	23,966	18	4
Canada,	48,547	17	11	422,807	13	6	144,291	7	10	496,579	8	3
Carolina,	94,368	8	2	330,847	2	10	14,182	4	2	69,742	15	8
Florida,	30,715	5	1	16,446	9	1	30,935	13	6	4,707	—	11
Georgia,	506	5	—	14,058	19	—	6,804	1	10	339	15	—
Hudſon's Bay,	14,763	17	—	6,228	3	5	6,801	18	8	8,188	8	11
New England,	2,068	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Newfoundland,	51,593	18	10	74,091	4	3	68,825	4	10	125,388	16	5
New Providence,	3,553	16	2	1,776	15	10	1,034	14	4	—	—	—
New York,	2,904	18	5	502,977	5	8	7,690	3	2	186,242	4	5
Nova Scotia,	4,023	19	6	32,474	10	1	2,943	5	10	71,505	5	2
Anguilla,	—	—	—	—	—	—	48,239	18	6	5,297	7	2
Antigua,	152,445	4	2	65,223	11	2	231,019	5	5	131,438	9	2
Barbadoes,	81,117	13	11	152,681	6	10	176,999	2	5	201,314	13	5
Bermudas,	2,673	14	9	2,346	3	6	880	15	11	16,649	9	8
Jamaica,	869,751	14	10	442,695	5	2	1,157,121	—	11	670,669	7	7
Montſerrat,	56,402	10	8	14,707	12	6	47,695	14	9	428	14	10
Nevis,	83,513	8	2	22,634	11	2	47,386	16	9	4,387	2	5
St. Croix,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	850	—	—
St. Euſtatia,	5,159	17	1	453	8	5	7,637	18	7	—	—	—
St. Kitt's,	385,527	17	10	133,312	15	—	248,916	—	4	23,304	17	8
St. Lucia,	103,565	19	—	89,394	3	—	258,141	16	11	139,853	6	9
St. Martin's,	28,010	4	3	4,127	15	3	40,580	16	1	442	7	5
St. Thomas,	—	—	—	26,606	12	11	3,952	10	5	222,632	10	7
Tobago,	29,330	2	8	14,442	17	10	4,109	7	10	1,893	5	10
Tortola,	70,960	—	10	33,438	—	9	161,388	1	2	92,720	12	2
Southern Fiſhery,	4,151	—	—	—	—	—	94	5	—	—	—	—
Demerara,	20,232	19	6	4,473	13	6	47,913	1	4	—	—	—
New Orleans,	—	—	—	98	17	4	4,426	11	10	14,318	3	1
Prize Goods,	1,087,928	18	8	806,564	1	5	521,007	3	1	663,089	7	9
Total,	11,918,991	9	—	10,569,186	10	10	9,532,606	19	10	12,355,750	0	1
	Excefs of imports,			1,349,804	18	2	Exceſs of exports,			2,823,143	0	3

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1782. The following are the variations of the public funds during this year, with the higheſt and loweſt prices arranged oppoſite to each month.

	Bank Stock.	*3 per cent. reduc*	*3 per cent. conſol*	*3½ p. ct. B. 1758*	*4 per cent. conſol*	*Long Ann.*	*Ann. 1778*	*India Stock.*	*India Bonds.*	*S Sea Old Ann.*	*S Sea New Ann.*	*Nav Bills.*	*Exchequer Bills.*	*Omni. Pre.*
January,	111½	56⅞	55⅞	55⅞	71½	16⅛	12 1/16	135	12	56¾	55½	11	5	6½
	110¾	56 5/9	55⅝	—	71⅜	16	12	134¾	11	56¼	55⅝	10⅞	4	5
February,	—	—	—	—	70⅞	—	12⅛	133¾	—	62¼	—	12⅞	—	—
	109⅞	55	54¼	54⅜	70¼	15⅞	11⅞	131¼	par.	—	52½	—	1	—
March,	113½	55¾	55½	55⅝	71½	16⅝	12½	136½	10s. pr.	55⅜	55¼	11⅞	1 pr.	8½
	111¼	55½	—	54¼	—	16	12¼	134½	par.	—	54½	11½	6 diſ.	5¼
April,	118	57½	60	58¾	75⅛	17⅜	13⅛	139	11	57⅜	58⅝	12	6	15
	—	—	55½	55⅝	71⅝	16⅝	12½	135½	1	55⅜	55½	10½	2 diſ.	8
May,	115	59⅛	—	—	73½	17½	—	139¼	15	58½	59½	11⅛	—	—
	114	58¼	57½	—	72⅝	17¼	13	138¼	7	57⅝	58⅞	10¼	—	—
June,	116¼	59½	61⅝	—	74⅝	—	—	—	—	58⅞	59⅞	—	—	—
	114¾	58¾	59⅞	—	73¼	—	—	137½	3	58⅜	—	10¾	—	—
July,	115¾	59⅞	60⅜	—	73¾	—	—	137½	—	—	—	11½	—	—
	113¼	57⅞	58⅛	—	72⅛	17	—	128	—	57	—	11	3s. pr.	—
Auguſt,	115	58¼	57⅞	—	73	16⅞	12⅝	129¾	4	57¼	57¼	11⅜	7	—
	113⅜	—	56⅛	—	72	16½	12⅜	127¾	1	56¾	56¾	10⅝	4	—
Septemb.	117¼	57¾	58⅞	—	74⅞	17¾	12⅞	130¾	2	58⅞	57⅞	10⅞	5	—
	114¼	—	56½	—	72⅞	16¾	12½	—	par.	57⅜	56½	10	3	—
October,	117⅞	58	58¾	—	74½	17¼	—	136½	—	—	—	11⅝	5	—
	113½	57¾	57¾	—	72⅛	17⅛	—	129	—	56⅞	57½	10⅝	1	—
Novemb.	117½	60⅝	61⅞	—	—	18	13½	135¼	12	57⅞	60⅛	12½	14	—
	113½	56¾	58	—	71½	17	12⅞	131¼	2	60	67⅞	11⅜	2	—
Decemb.	124	66¼	66	—	80¼	19⅝	13⅞	139½	18	64½	64½	13⅜	18	—
	120	60⅝	61¾	—	73⅝	17⅝	13¼	133	14	60	61	12	14	—

The following bills relating to trade and commerce, received the royal aſſent between the 27th of November, 1781, and the 11th of July, 1782 :—

A bill for further continuing an act made in the 17th year of his preſent Majeſty, entitled, "An Act to empower his Majeſty to ſecure and detain perſons charged with or ſuſpected of the crime of high treaſon, committed in any of his Majeſty's colonies or plantations in America, or on the high ſeas, or for the crime of piracy."

For the better ſupply of mariners and ſeamen to ſerve in his Majeſty's ſhips of war, and on board merchant-ſhips, &c.

For allowing further time to negociate by indorſement the bonds iſſued in purſuance of an act of the 14th of his preſent Majeſty, entitled, "An act for more effectually carrying into execution certain propoſals made by the moſt noble Henry Duke of Buccleugh, the moſt noble Charles Duke of Queenſberry and Dover, and others, for redeeming the annuities granted by the company of the bank of Ayr, in that part of Great Britain called Scotland, known under the firm of Douglas, Heron, and Company."

For prohibiting the ranſoming of ſhips or veſſels captured by his Majeſty's ſubjects, and of the merchandize or goods on board ſuch ſhips or veſſels.

For allowing the importation of goods, the growth, produce, or manufacture of the iſlands of St. Chriſtopher, Nevis, and Montſerrat, into any ports of his Majeſty's dominions in Europe or America, upon payment of the Britiſh plantation duties.

For

A. D. 1782 For charging a ſtamp duty upon inland bills of exchange, promiſſory notes, or other notes payable otherwiſe than upon demand.

For charging a duty on perſons whoſe property ſhall be inſured againſt loſs by fire.

For licenſing lottery office keepers, and regulating the ſale of lottery tickets.

For diſcharging and indemnifying the Eaſt India Company from all damages, intereſts, and loſſes, for default in certain payments due to the public, on ſuch payments being made at a future ſtipulated time; and to enable the ſaid Company to continue a dividend of eight per cent. to the proprietors of their ſtock, for the preſent year.

For enabling his Majeſty to conclude a peace or truce with certain colonies in North America, therein mentioned.

For preventing, in future, the granting any patent office to be exerciſed in any colony or plantation now, or at any time hereafter, belonging to the crown of Great Britain, for any longer term than during ſuch time as the grantee thereof, or perſon appointed thereto, ſhall diſcharge the duty thereof in perſon, and behave well therein.

For the better relief and employment of the poor.

For reſtraining any perſon concerned in any contract, commiſſion, or agreement made for the public ſervice, from being elected, or ſitting and voting as a member of the Houſe of Commons.

Of this act, we ſhall give the following abſtract:—

"Any member accepting a contract, or continuing to hold any contract, after the commencement of the next ſeſſion, his ſeat ſhall be void.

"Not to extend to incorporated companies; nor to contracts already made, for one year; nor to contracts by deſcent, till after twelve months poſſeſſion.

"Members holding contracts, may be diſcharged therefrom, on giving a year's notice.

"Any perſon actually poſſeſſed of a patent for a new invention, or a prolongation thereof by act of Parliament, and having contracted with government concerning the object of the ſaid patent before the paſſing of this act, ſhall give notice of his intention to diſſolve the ſaid contract, and the ſame ſhall be null and void from the time of giving ſuch notice.

"If any perſon hereby diſqualified ſhall be elected, ſuch election ſhall be void.

"Diſqualified perſons who ſhall ſit in the Houſe of Commons after this ſeſſion, ſhall forfeit 500l. for each day.

"No member of the Houſe of Commons to have any ſhare in public contracts: and a heavy penalty to be levied on thoſe admitting them to ſuch a participation.

"Actions againſt defaulters to be commenced within twelve months."

SUPPLIES granted by Parliament for this year:—	£.	s.	d.
For 100,000 ſeamen, including 21,305 marines, —	4,940,000	0	0
For the ordinary of the navy, &c. — — —	409,766	12	9
Towards building and repairing ſhips of war, —	953,519	0	0
Towards diſcharging the debt of the navy, — —	1,500,000	0	0
For the charge of the office of ordnance for the land ſervice, &c.	696,001	13	5
Ditto for the ſea ſervice, —— —— ——	260,000	0	0
Ordnance extraordinaries of 1781, —— ——	899,723	15	7
For compenſation to proprietors of lands near Plymouth, —	16,364	10	5
For 49,455 land-forces, including 4,175 invalids, &c. —	1,242,835	2	3
Carried over,	10,918,210	14	5

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	£.	s.	d.
Brought over,	10,918,210	14	5
For maintaining forces and garriſons out of the kingdom,	1,315,523	5	10
For the pay of the general and ſtaff-officers, &c.	43,840	6	0
For the militia, and four regiments of fencible men in North Britain,	677,497	15	10
For the cloathing of the militia,	100,594	17	1
For additional militia companies, &c. in 1781,	542	14	1
For additionals to three regiments of foot, and for Major General Stuart Douglas,	1,675	10	4
On account of the reduced officers of his Majeſty's land forces, &c.	77,595	19	2
For allowances to ſeveral officers and private gentlemen of the two reduced troops of horſe-guards, &c.	574	18	4
For one regiment of light dragoons, and two regiments of foot, from September 24, to December 24, 1781,	21,329	18	8
For one ditto, ditto, and ſeven battalions and a detachment of foot in the Eaſt Indies, 1782,	36,280	10	8
For the charge of out-penſioners of Chelſea Hoſpital, &c.	92,881	17	1
For the charge of 13,472 Heſſian troops and ſubſidy,	367,203	9	10
To make good the deficiencies in ſums voted for ditto in 1781,	15,499	17	5
For the charge of 4,300 Brunſwickers,	93,947	15	8
For ditto of 2,094 men of the troops of Hanau and ſubſidy,	61,108	11	0¼
For five Hanoverian battalions ſerving at Gibraltar, &c.	56,074	19	4½
Ditto of one regiment of Waldeck, and ſubſidy,	17,498	3	2¾
For a corps of foot of Anhalt Zerbſt, including artillery,	23,818	11	11¼
Deficiency in votes for ditto in 1781,	4,942	19	0
For ditto of 1,559 troops of the Margrave of Anſpach, &c.	43,665	12	3
Deficiency in votes for ditto in 1781,	3,282	12	5
For proviſions for the foreign troops ſerving in America,	55,469	0	0
For artillery for the foreign troops,	27,683	14	0
For extra army expences, &c. not provided for by Parliament,	3,280,053	11	10½
To the Levant Company,	5,000	0	0
On account of new roads and bridges in the Highlands of North Britain,	5,830	1	6
For repairing, &c. Britiſh forts and ſettlements on the coaſt of Africa,	15,000	0	0
Towards carrying on the buildings at Somerſet Houſe,	25,000	0	0
Towards rebuilding Newgate,	10,000	0	0
For the Britiſh Muſeum,	3,000	0	0
For the relief of certain American civil officers, &c.	73,704	8	0
To make good to his Majeſty the like ſum iſſued by his Majeſty's orders, in purſuance of the addreſſes of the Houſe of Commons,	8,908	9	1¼
To Mr. Duncan Campbell, for employing convicts in heaving ballaſt on the Thames,	14,719	4	0
For the civil eſtabliſhment of the iſland of St. John,	3,000	0	0
Ditto of Georgia,	2,536	0	0
Ditto of Nova Scotia,	5,021	10	5
Carried forward,	17,508,516	18	6½

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	£.	s.	d.
Brought over,	17,508,516	18	6½
Ditto of Eaſt Florida,	3,950	0	0
Ditto of Weſt Florida, for 1779,	2,700	0	0
For the commiſſioners of public accounts,	19,000	0	0
For diſcharging the prizes of the lottery of 1781,	405,000	0	0
Towards diſcharging certain Exchequer bills,	1,900,000	0	0
For diſcharging certain other Exchequer bills, &c.	1,500,000	0	0
For ditto, on the vote of credit,	1,000,000	0	0
Deficiency in the land-tax,	256,964	8	7½
Ditto in the malt-tax,	163,935	11	4½
Ditto of coinage duty,	8,113	16	11½
Ditto of annuity fund, 1758,	35,149	8	0½
Ditto of annuity fund, 1778,	183,380	3	8
Ditto of annuity fund, 1779,	102,806	9	0
Ditto of annuity fund, 1780,	153,193	8	11
Ditto of ways and means, 1781,	24,467	5	11¾
	23,266,277	11	1¼
For military ſervices, on the vote of credit,	1,000,000	0	0
Total Supplies,	24,266,277	11	1¼

The WAYS and MEANS for raiſing the foregoing ſupplies.	£.	s.	d.
Duty on malt,	750,000	0	0
Land tax at 4s.	2,000,000	0	0
Loan,	13,500,000	0	0
Lottery,	405,000	0	0
By Exchequer bills,	1,500,000	0	0
By ditto,	1,900,000	0	0
By certain balances,	23,645	2	7
Diſpoſeable money in the Exchequer,	10,251	18	11
By certain ſurpluſſes of the ſinking fund,	870,760	11	2¾
By future produce of the ſinking fund,	2,284,715	10	8
	23,244,373	3	4¾
Vote of credit,	1,000,000	0	0
Total of Ways and Means,	24,244,373	3	4¾
Total amount of Supplies granted,	24,266,277	11	1¼
Total amount of Ways and Means,	24,244,373	3	4¾
Deficiency of Ways and Means,	21,904	7	8½
The national debt, up to 1782, amounted to	£. 190,606,000	0	0
The annual intereſt of which was,	7,605,125	0	0

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A. D.
1782 The following additional duties and new taxes were impoſed this year:—

	£.	s.	d.
An additional duty of 1s. per barrel on all ſmall beer above 10s. per barrel, and withholding the 6d. drawback on malt,	42,000	0	0
Ditto of 4d. per pound on tobacco,	141,333	0	0
Ditto of one farthing per pound on ſalt,	60,000	0	0
Ditto on medicinal ditto, 2s. the hundred-weight,	5,000	0	0
Ditto of 5 per cent. on all exciſe and cuſtoms,	235,000	0	0
Spaniſh and Flemiſh brandies to pay the ſame duties as French,	5,000	0	0
A new tax of 1s. 6d. on every 100l. inſured,	100,000	0	0
Ditto of a ſtamp duty of 3d. on every inland bill of exchange under 50l. and 6d. on ditto above 50l.	50,000	0	0
Ditto of one farthing per ton per mile on inland water carriage,	163,410	0	0
Ditto of 3d. per ton on coaſting ditto, (coals excepted)	12,000	0	0
Total of new taxes, &c.	£. 813,743	0	0
Intereſt of the additional national debt of this year,	793,125	0	0
Exceſs of new taxes,	20,618	0	0

An account of the chriſtenings and burials within the bills of mortality in London, for this year.

Chriſtened, males	8,808	Buried, males	9,131
——— females	8,293	——— females	8,787
	17,101		17,918

1783 This year opens with an event of the utmoſt importance to the Britiſh empire, as well as to the different powers engaged in hoſtilities againſt it. On the 20th of January, preliminary articles of peace between Great Britain and France were ſigned at Verſailles by Mr. Fitzherbert and the Count de Vergennes: ſimilar articles were alſo ſigned at the ſame place, and on the ſame day, between Great Britain and Spain, by Mr. Fitzherbert and the Count D'Aranda.—Proviſional articles of peace with the United States of America, (to take place when a treaty was concluded) had been already ſigned at Paris on the 30th of November in the laſt year, by Mr. Oſwald and the American commiſſioners, B. Franklin, J. Adams, J. Jay, and H. Laurens.—The preliminaries with Holland were not actually ſubſcribed, but a ceſſation of hoſtilities with that republic was agreed upon.

In the treaty between Great Britain and France it was agreed, that the moſt efficacious meaſures ſhould immediately be taken, by both parties, for putting an end to hoſtilities of every kind. Newfoundland was to remain with England as before the commencement of the war; and to prevent diſputes about boundaries, it was accorded, that the French fiſhery ſhould begin from Cape St. John, on the eaſtern ſide, and going round by the north, ſhould have for its boundary Cape Ray on the weſtern ſide. The iſlands of St. Pierre and Miquelon were ceded in full right to France. The French were to continue to fiſh in the Gulf of St. Laurence, conformably to the fifth article of the treaty of Paris. The King of Great Britain was to

A. D. 1783 reſtore to France the iſland of St. Lucia, and to cede and guarantee to her that of Tobago. The King of France was to ſurrender to Great Britain the iſlands of Grenada and the Grenadines, St. Vincent, Dominica, St. Kitt's, Nevis, and Montſerrat. The river of Senegal and its dependencies, with the forts of Louis, Podor, Galam, Arguin and Portendic, were to be given to France; and the iſland of Goree was to be reſtored to it. Fort James and the river Gambia were guarantied to his Britannic Majeſty; and the gum trade was to remain in the ſame condition as before the commencement of hoſtilities:—the King of Great Britain was to reſtore to his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, all the eſtabliſhments which belonged to him at the breaking out of the war on the coaſt of Orixa and in Bengal, with the liberty to ſurround Chandernagore with a ditch for draining the waters; and became engaged to ſecure to the ſubjects of France in that part of India, and on the coaſts of Orixa, Coromandel and Malabar, a ſafe, free and independent trade, either as private traders, or under the direction of a company. Pondicherry, as well as Karical, was to be rendered back to France; and his Britannic Majeſty was to give, as a dependency round Pondicherry, the two diſtricts of Valanour and Bahour; and, as a dependency round Karical, the four contiguous Macans. The French were again to enter into the poſſeſſion of Mahe, and of the Comptoir at Surat. The allies of France and Great Britain were to be invited to accede to the preſent pacification; and the term of four months was to be allowed them for the purpoſe of making their deciſion. If they ſhould be averſe to peace, no aſſiſtance, on either ſide, was to be given to them. Great Britain renounced every claim with reſpect to Dunkirk. Commiſſioners were to be appointed reſpectively by the two nations to enquire into the ſtate of their commerce, and to concert new arrangements of trade on the footing of reciprocity and mutual convenience. All conqueſts on either ſide, in any part of the world whatſoever, not mentioned or alluded to in the preſent treaty, were to be reſtored without difficulty, and without requiring compenſation. It being neceſſary that there ſhould be a fixed epoch for the reſtitutions and ſurrenders to be made by the contracting parties, it was determined that the King of Great Britain ſhould order the evacuation of the iſlands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, three months after the ratification of the preliminary treaty, and that, if poſſible, before the expiration of the ſame period, he ſhould relinquiſh all connection with St. Lucia, in the Weſt Indies, and Goree, in Africa. It was ſtipulated, in like manner, that his Britannic Majeſty ſhould, at the end of three months after the ratification of the treaty, or ſooner, enter into the poſſeſſion of the iſlands of Grenada and the Grenadines, St. Vincent, Dominica, St. Chriſtopher's, Nevis, and Montſerrat. France was to be put in poſſeſſion of the towns and comptoirs which were to be reſtored to her in the Eaſt Indies, and of the territories which were to ſerve as dependencies round Pondicherry and Karical, ſix months after the ratification of the definitive treaty; and at the termination of the ſame term, ſhe was to reſtore the towns and diſtricts which her arms might have taken from the Engliſh or their allies in that quarter of the globe. The priſoners on each ſide were reciprocally to be ſurrendered, and without ranſom, upon the ratification of the treaty, and on paying the debts they might have contracted during their captivity. Each crown was reſpectively to reimburſe the ſums which had been advanced for the maintenance of their priſoners, according to atteſted and authentic vouchers. With a view to prevent every diſpute and complaint on account of prizes which might be taken by the ſhips of war belonging to either power, the following arrangement was agreed upon:—All veſſels or effects captured in the Channel, and in the North Seas, after the ſpace of twelve days, (to be computed from the ratification of the preſent preliminary articles) were to be reſtored on each ſide; one month to be allowed from

1783 the Channel and the North Seas, as far as the Canary iſlands incluſively, or in the Mediterranean; two months from the Canary iſlands as far as the equator; and, laſtly, five months, without exception, in all other parts of the world.

By the preliminary articles between Great Britain and Spain it was agreed, that his Catholic Majeſty was to keep the iſland of Minorca, and was to retain Weſt Florida. Eaſt Florida was to be ceded to him by the King of Great Britain. Eighteen months were to be allowed from the date of the ratification of the definitive treaty, to the ſubjects of the latter who had ſettled in the iſland of Minorca and in the two Floridas, to ſell their eſtates, to recover their debts, and to tranſport their perſons and effects, without being reſtrained on account of their religion, or on any other pretence whatſoever, except that of debts and proſecutions for crimes. His Britannic Majeſty was, at the ſame time, to have the power to cauſe all the effects that might belong to him in Eaſt Florida to be carried away. The liberty of cutting logwood in a diſtrict, of which the boundaries were to be aſcertained, without moleſtation or diſturbance of any kind whatſoever, was permitted to Great Britain. The King of Spain was to reſtore the iſlands of Providence and the Bahamas, without exception, in the condition in which they were when conquered by his arms. All other conqueſts of territories and countries, upon either ſide, not included in the preſent articles, were to be mutually reſtored, without difficulty or compenſation. The epoch for the reſtitutions to be made, the regulations for the releaſe of priſoners, and for the ceſſation of captures, were exactly the ſame as thoſe ſtipulated in the preliminary articles with France.

By the proviſional articles agreed upon by the reſpective commiſſioners of Great Britain and the United States of America, his Britannic Majeſty acknowledged them to be free, ſovereign, and independent States. He conſented to treat with them in that capacity; and, for himſelf, his heirs, and his ſucceſſors, he relinquiſhed all claims to the government of them, to their property and territorial rights. That no diſputes might ariſe in future on the ſubject of the boundaries of the United States, it was declared, that they ſhould be, "from the north-weſt angle of Nova Scotia, to that angle which is formed by a line drawn due north,—from the ſource of St. Croix river to the Highlands, along the ſaid Highlands, which divide thoſe rivers that empty themſelves into the river St. Laurence,—from thoſe which fall into the Atlantic Ocean, to the north weſternmoſt head of Connecticut river,—thence down along the middle of that river, to the 45th degree of north latitude,—from thence by a line due weſt on that latitude, until it ſtrikes the river Iroquois or Cateraquy,—thence along the middle of the ſaid river into the lake Ontario, through the middle of that lake, until it ſtrikes the communication between the ſaid lake and the lake Erie,—thence along the middle of that communication into lake Erie, through the middle of the ſaid lake, until it arrives at the water communication between that lake and Lake Huron,—thence along the middle of the ſaid water communication,—thence through the middle of the ſaid lake to the water communication between that lake and Lake Superior,—thence through Lake Superior, northward of the iſles Royal and Phillipeaux, to the Long Lake,—thence through the middle of the ſaid Long Lake, and the water communication between it and the Lake of the Woods, to the ſaid Lake of the Woods,—thence through the ſaid Lake to the moſt northern point of it; and from thence, in a due weſt courſe, to the river Miſſiſſippi,—thence by a line to be drawn along the middle of the ſaid river Miſſiſſippi, until it ſhall interſect the northernmoſt part of the 31ſt degree of north latitude.—South, by a line to be drawn due eaſt, from the determination of the line laſt-mentioned, in the latitude of 31 degrees north of the Equator, to the middle of the river Apalachicola,

A. D. 1783 or Catahouche,—thence along the middle thereof, to its junction with the river Flint,—thence ſtrait to the head of St. Mary's River, and thence down along the middle of St Mary's River to the Atlantic Ocean.—Eaſt, by a line to be drawn along the middle of the river St. Croix, from its mouth in the Bay of Fundy, to its ſource; and from its ſource, directly north to the ſaid Highlands, which divide the rivers that fall into the Atlantic Ocean, from thoſe which fall into the river St. Laurence; comprehending all iſlands within 20 leagues of any part of the ſhores of the United States, and lying between lines to be drawn due eaſt from the points where the ſaid boundaries, between Nova Scotia on the one part, and Eaſt Florida on the other, ſhall reſpectively touch the Bay of Fundy, and the Atlantic Ocean; excepting ſuch iſlands as now are, or heretofore have been within the limits of the ſaid province of Nova Scotia."

It was ſtipulated, that the people of the United States ſhould continue to enjoy, without moleſtation, the right to take fiſh of every kind on the Grand Bank, and all other the Banks of Newfoundland; and that they ſhould likewiſe exerciſe and continue the ſame privilege in the Gulf of St. Laurence, and at every other place in the ſea; where the ſaid inhabitants uſed heretofore to fiſh. The inhabitants of the United States were likewiſe to have liberty to take fiſh of every kind, on ſuch part of the coaſt of Newfoundland, as Britiſh ſeamen ſhall reſort to, but not to cure or dry them on that iſland. They were alſo to poſſeſs the privilege of fiſhing on the coaſts, bays, and creeks of all the other dominions of his Britannic Majeſty in America, and the Americans are to be permitted to dry and cure fiſh in any of the unſettled bays, harbours and creeks of Nova Scotia, Magdalen Iſlands, and Labrador. But it was agreed, that, after ſuch places ſhould be ſettled, this right could not be legally put in practice without the conſent of the inhabitants and proprietors of the ground. It was accorded, that creditors on either ſide ſhould meet with no impediment in the proſecution of their claims. It was contracted, that the Congreſs ſhould earneſtly recommend it to the legiſlatures of the reſpective States, to provide for the reſtitution of all eſtates and properties which had been confiſcated, belonging to real Britiſh ſubjects, and of the eſtates and properties of perſons reſident in diſtricts in the poſſeſſion of his Majeſty's arms, and who had not borne arms againſt the United States. It was reſolved, that perſons of any other deſcription ſhould have free liberty to go to any part whatſoever of any of the Thirteen United States, and remain in it for twelve months unmoleſted in their endeavours to recover ſuch of their eſtates, rights and properties, as may not have been confiſcated; and it was concerted, that the Congreſs ſhould earneſtly recommend to the ſeveral States, a reviſion of all acts or laws regarding the premiſes, ſo as to render them perfectly conſiſtent, not only with juſtice and equity, but with that ſpirit of conciliation, which, on the return of the bleſſings of peace, ſhould univerſally prevail. It was underſtood, that no future confiſcations ſhould be made, nor proſecutions commenced againſt any perſon or body of men, on account of the part which he or they had taken in the preſent war; and that thoſe who may be in confinement on ſuch a charge, at the time of the ratification of the treaty in America, ſhould be immediately ſet at liberty. It was concluded, that there ſhould be a firm and perpetual peace between his Britannic Majeſty and the United States; that all hoſtilities by ſea and land ſhould immediately ceaſe; and that priſoners, on both ſides, ſhould be ſet at liberty. It was determined, that his Britannic Majeſty ſhould expeditiouſly, and without committing deſtruction of any ſort, withdraw all his armies, garriſons and fleets, from every port, place and harbour of the United States. The navigation of the river Miſſiſſippi, from its ſource to the Ocean, was to remain ever free and open to the ſubjects of Great Britain, and to the citizens of the United States. In fine, it was agreed in the

1783 event, that if any place or territory belonging to Great Britain, or to the United States, ſhould be conquered by the arms of either before the arrival of the proviſional articles in America, it ſhould be reſtored without compenſation or difficulty.

It was not with equal ſucceſs that the negociations for peace were carried on with Holland. In a memorial to Mr. Fitzherbert, preſented to him at Paris, by the plenipotentiaries of the States General, intimations of advantages were made which could not be granted. In conſequence of which, he was inſtructed to reply, that as the Republic diſcovered ſo little inclination to renew thoſe ties which, in former times, had connected them ſo cloſely with Great Britain, it was proper, at leaſt, that they ſhould conduct themſelves in all commercial affairs which might take place between Great Britain and them, purely and ſimply by the general principles of the rights of mankind; and to this declaration, he added, that as ſoon as the nations engaged in the preſent war, ſhould begin to form thoſe commercial arrangements, which the new engagements that ſhould ſubſiſt between them ſhould render neceſſary, his Britannic Majeſty would be ready to contract with them ſuch commercial treaties as might correſpond with the ſituation of the two States, and with their reſpective intereſts. They were aſſured, that the King of Great Britain was willing, from his moderation, to reſtore to their High Mightineſſes, all the poſſeſſions which had been taken from them by his arms, except Trincomale, in the iſland of Ceylon, with its dependencies. With regard to an indemnification of the loſſes which the United Provinces had experienced during the war, they were informed, that ſuch a pretenſion would never be admitted, as being equally repugnant to reaſon and equity: but they were admoniſhed at the ſame time, that the King of Great Britain conſented, without any reluctance, that the diviſion of prizes taken by his ſubjects previous to the rupture, ſhould be ſubmitted to the courts of juſtice of the Britiſh Admiralty, agreeable to the eſtabliſhed rules of nations.

To theſe propoſitions, the plenipotentiaries of the States General expreſſed their diſſent. They did not underſtand what the court of London meant by "the general principles of the rights of mankind." If by this expreſſion thoſe principles were ſignified which are drawn from the primitive rights of nations, which render the navigation and conveyance of all kinds of merchandize, without diſtinction, entirely free, without any obſtruction whatever, excepting warlike ſtores, they were perſuaded that their High Mightineſſes would very readily admit it as the baſis of a negotiation; and they expreſſed themſelves to be ready to engage in arranging, on this principle, the definitive treaty of peace, or a treaty of private commerce, as ſoon as the nations concerned in the preſent war ſhould determine to enter into commercial arrangements. They could not, however, reconcile the detention of Trincomale, with what was termed the moderation of his Britannic Majeſty; and it was their opinion, that their High Mightineſſes would not ſubmit to authorize an article of that kind. As to an indemnification of loſſes, they avoided finally to enter upon it, till it ſhould appear that the court of London was diſpoſed to approach to equitable heads of accommodation and alliance.

On the 27th of January, copies of the preliminary articles of peace between Great Britain and France, and Great Britain and Spain, and of the proviſional treaty with the United States of America, were laid before both Houſes of Parliament; and the 17th day of February following was appointed for taking them into conſideration. Without entering into the particulars of the important debates which took place on this occaſion, we ſhall give a candid ſtatement of the arguments employed on both ſides of the queſtion.

It

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It was aſſerted on the part of adminiſtration, that the critical ſituation of the finances of this country demanded an immediate termination of the war. The national debt was now riſen to the enormous ſum of 250,000,000l. for which an intereſt of near 9,500,000l. was annually paid. This intereſt, together with the civil liſt and peace eſtabliſhment, would ſwell the national expences to little leſs than 15,000,000l. per annum; and as the amount of the enormous load of taxes, under which the landed intereſt was ſinking, did not exceed 12,700,000l. there remained an annual ſum of 2,300,000l. to be raiſed by freſh burthens.

It might indeed be urged, that the other belligerent powers felt an equal degree of diſtreſs; but allowing the truth of that aſſertion, the difference of government operated ſo much in their favour, that granting they would incur great diſtreſſes by proſecuting the war, we ſhould experience much greater, were a public bankruptcy to enſue. The popular maxims of our conſtitution would throw us into univerſal confuſion, while the habitual ſubmiſſion to the ſupreme authority of the State, (Holland excepted) would, in the midſt of their hardſhips and ſufferings, keep them, in a great degree, in tranquillity and order.

To theſe aſſertions it was replied, that the ſtate of our finances was as well known to the enemy as ourſelves; and that it aroſe from their firm belief of our being in a ſituation to continue the conteſt, that they manifeſted the diſpoſition they had to enter into a negotiation for peace with us.

The next point of conſideration, was the home defence of the kingdom. The deficiencies in the various corps of regulars and militia were deſcribed to be ſo great, that not leſs than 30,000 men would be wanted to ſupply them. The country, it was inſiſted, was ſo exhauſted, that few or no recruits could be procured, and that even if men were obtained in Germany, it would be a matter of no common hazard to tranſport them beyond the Channel, while the ſeas were poſſeſſed by the ſuperior fleets of our enemies. On the contrary it was aſſerted, that both Great Britain and Ireland abounded with men fit for ſervice, and that German levies might be eaſily raiſed as well as tranſported, with no more than the common riſque of war, to any part of the globe.

The navy was repreſented to be in a condition hardly adequate to the purpoſe of defence and the protection of commerce, much leſs to the activity of enterprize. The whole Britiſh naval force, fit for ſervice, ſcarcely amounted to 100 ſail of the line; of theſe many were undermanned, ſeveral out of repair, and the greater part had been long and actively employed on foreign ſtations. Our magazines were in an exhauſted ſtate; and with the moſt diligent exertions, not more than ſix ſail could have been added to this catalogue in the enſuing ſpring: on the other hand, the fleets of France and Spain amounted to 140 ſail of the line; thirteen new ſhips would have been ſhortly added to the French fleet; the Dutch navy would be compoſed of 25 ſail of the line, and it was uncertain what acceſſion the Spaniſh force would have received at the ſame period. The diſtribution of this force, it was added, was a very alarming circumſtance. Had not peace taken place, a fleet of 40 ſail of the line lay ready at Cadiz to accompany a fleet of tranſports, with 16,000 troops, to the Weſt Indies; where, at leaſt, 20 ſhips of the line were waiting, with as many thouſand troops, to join them. Our naval ſtrength, on that ſtation, conſiſted of no more than 46 ſail of the line, which was not an adequate force, making every reaſonable allowance for the ſuperior ſkill and courage of Britiſh ſeamen, to give any reaſonable hopes, that we ſhould be able to prevent the alarming deſigns of the enemy on our remaining Weſt India poſſeſſions.

1783 In the mean time, we had every reaſon to expect, that France would maintain her ſuperiority in the Eaſt Indies. The reinforcement from England under Commodore Bickerton, would at moſt give us an equality with the enemy,—and which, after all, would, by no means, be ſufficient to prevent them from landing their troops on a coaſt of ſuch great extent. The force which the French already had, with Hyder Ally, exceeded the number of Europeans in the ſervice of Great Britain, and more were daily expected. The immenſe armies which that Prince would bring into the field, aided by the ſkill and diſcipline of his French allies, were objects of the moſt ſerious conſideration.

If we directed our attention near home, and looked to the probable operations in the Channel and the Northern Seas, in a future campaign, it was evident from the papers laid before the Houſe of Commons, that the combined force of the Houſe of Bourbon and Holland, would have nearly doubled our force in our own ſeas. It was, therefore, a matter of real wiſdom and true patriotiſm, to avoid the hazard which the continuance of war rendered probable, by ſeizing the preſent moment of making what, conſidering all circumſtances, might be eſteemed an honourable peace.

On the other ſide it was contended, that the condition of the Britiſh navy was in every reſpect more flouriſhing and formidable than it had been at any preceding period of the war; that after two years of preparation the Dutch marine ſtill continued very inconſiderable, and the augmentation of the French and Spaniſh fleets had always been over-rated. It was likewiſe affirmed, that Admiral Pigot would have poſſeſſed a force in the Weſt Indies fully adequate to every purpoſe of attack or defence. For the Channel ſervice it was ſaid, that there remained 34 ſail of the line,—which, though inferior to the fleet of the enemy, would be ſufficient for the ſecurity of our trade, and equal to all the purpoſes of home defence.

It was alſo argued, that it was more than probable, that in the Eaſt Indies the Britiſh Admiral would this year have been compleat maſter of the ſea. The apprehenſions ſo ſtrongly expreſſed of Hyder Ally, were repreſented as being without any reaſonable foundation,—while his French allies were deſcribed as inferior, in every reſpect, to the European troops and diſciplined natives in the Britiſh ſervice. That, on a calm review of our ſituation in India, whatever calamities had befallen us from the unhappy diſcord among thoſe who had the ſuperintendance of our affairs there, it appeared to promiſe the ſpeedy reſtoration of former proſperity.

The particular articles of the peace became the ſucceeding objects of conſideration. It was inſiſted by the miniſtry, that the alterations which were now, according to the articles with France, to take place concerning the fiſheries of Newfoundland, were favourable to Great Britain. The French King renounces the right of fiſhing from Cape Bonaviſta to Cape St. John, and obtains an extenſion of that privilege on the weſtern ſide of the iſland of Newfoundland. By this ſtipulation the French are confined to a certain ſpot, and an end is put to the diſputes which had heretofore been a continual matter of uneaſineſs between the two nations: the eaſtern and ſouth eaſtern coaſt is left to the free and full enjoyment of the Engliſh; and there the fiſh are not only the largeſt, but in the greateſt abundance: the curing of them alſo is much more convenient there than in the Streights of Belleiſle, where the fogs are more prevalent: by the teſtimony of every officer who has ſerved at Newfoundland, one league of coaſt between Cape Bonaviſta and St. John, is worth ten on the weſtern ſide; and thus, while the ſtipulation is for our advantage, an encouragement is given to our national ſpirit and induſtry. It was ſtated, that the ſurrender of St. Pierre and Miquelon were conceſſions of no

A. D. 1783 importance. The harbour of St. Pierre is ſmall, and cannot receive men of war; the road is capable of admitting ſhips of force, but the bottom is rocky and dangerous. Miquelon has a road at the north end of the iſland, but it is a ſtation of no advantage: veſſels are there open to the eaſterly winds, and expoſed to the attacks of an enemy. It is of no ſervice whatever to fortify theſe iſlands; and the aſſertion that, if fortified, they would command the entrance into the gulf of St. Laurence, is without the leaſt foundation: it might as well be ſaid that Breſt commands the entrance into the harbour of Plymouth. Theſe iſlands could be of no ſervice to us, and would by no means enable the French, in time of war, to moleſt our fiſheries; as, on a ſurvey, it appeared, that no fortification could be erected on them ſufficiently ſtrong to reſiſt the fire of any ſhip of force.

It was argued, that nothing could be more inconſiſtent with juſt notions of our national intereſts, than to object to the ſtipulations which had been made with regard to the Weſt Indies. The iſlands of St. Chriſtopher, Nevis, Montſerrat, St. Vincent, Dominica, and Grenada, were now reſtored to Great Britain by the peace, in exchange for St Lucia and Tobago; which, in fact, ſhould be conſidered rather as ceſſions than reſtored captures. The former iſland, though it commanded a view of Martinico, was, by no means, equal in advantage to Dominica; which, in time of war, poſſeſſed the power of effectually interrupting the communication between Martinico and Guadaloupe, the two principal French iſlands in thoſe ſeas.—The importance of Tobago to our cotton manufacturers, had been much exaggerated; for they had flouriſhed before the acquiſition of that iſland: and though its cotton was of a good quality, that commodity might be procured from other parts of the world.—Beſides, it is by no means a healthy ſpot, nor are its exports or imports of any conſiderable value.

By the ceſſions in Africa, France regained poſſeſſion of the river Senegal and its appendages, together with the iſland of Goree. But neither the one or the other were poſſeſſions of conſequence or value: their commerce was inconſiderable; and, from their unhealthy climate, became the grave of numbers of our fellow ſubjects, who were annually ſent there to watch an article of trade which we in vain endeavoured to monopolize. On the other hand, the poſſeſſion of the river Gambia, which was guaranteed to Great Britain by the King of France, afforded the proſpect of very conſiderable advantage, as it was navigable for ſeveral hundred miles, and in the neighbourhood of the Gold Coaſt. As much of the gum trade would now remain to the Engliſh as they ever had, or could ever want.

In juſtification of the ſtipulations which relate to the Eaſt Indies, it was contended, that though they were beneficial to the French, they were by no means injurious to Great Britain. The only advantages they had gained, beſides the reſtoration of what had been taken from them, were ſome diſtricts, to render Pondicherry and Karical places of more convenience than heretofore, and the permiſſion to drain the marſhes round Chandernagore, by encircling it with a ditch, to carry off the ſtagnant waters. But even allowing the French to be the gainers by the peace in the Eaſt Indies, the diſtracted ſtate of the Britiſh dominions in that quarter of the globe, made ſome condecenſion, on our part, abſolutely neceſſary. From the laſt accounts which were received previous to the peace, it appeared, that the poſſeſſions of the Eaſt India Company were expoſed to the greateſt hazard, and their finances, both at home and abroad, were in ſuch a ſtate, as, in all appearance, to make peace the only means of recovering our proſperity in Aſia.

With reſpect to that article of the treaty by which all regulations relative to Dunkirk, which had been inſerted in any former treaty of peace, were abrogated, it was contended, that the

1783 conſtraints with regard to this harbour were of no advantage to us, and were diſgraceful to France; to remove them, therefore, was to deſtroy an unhappy cauſe of hatred and diſcontent, which had long ſubſiſted between the two kingdoms: that the great conſequence of Dunkirk, as a port, had always been a very groſs miſtake, as it is near a ſhoaly part of the Channel, cannot receive ſhips of a large ſize, and never can be a rendezvous for ſquadrons of ſhips of war. Nor ſhould it be forgotten, that while this port can produce no material miſchief to us in time of war, it may operate greatly to our advantage in time of peace, as it is extremely well ſituated to carry on the Engliſh and Iriſh trade with the Low Countries; a branch of commerce which is known to be of very great importance.

To this review of the treaty with France, ſucceeded a recapitulation of that with Spain.—To this monarchy, it was ſaid, that reſtitutions were made of poſſeſſions originally its own, and which were far from being of any real importance to this country. Minorca was always kept at an enormous expence in peace, and, from a variety of circumſtances, could never be tenable in time of war. With regard to the ceſſion of Eaſt Florida, and the permiſſion allowed to Spain to retain Weſt Florida, thoſe articles were certainly to be defended on ſubſtantial grounds:—The right of conqueſt had given Weſt Florida to the Spaniſh monarchy, and the ſurrender of Eaſt Florida was the unavoidable conſequence of an unfortunate and miſconducted war: yet for theſe conceſſions an actual compenſation had been made by the reſtoration of the Bahama iſlands. It ſhould likewiſe be conſidered, that the expence of maintaining Eaſt and Weſt Florida had been exceſſive: for three years, the charges for Eaſt Florida amounted to 368,000l.; and the expences of Weſt Florida, for the ſame period, aroſe to a much larger ſum. It was, at the ſame time, proper to remember, that the imports and exports of theſe provinces bore no proportion to the burthen of their maintenance; their dereliction, therefore, did not afford ſo great advantage to Spain as might be generally ſuppoſed:—Beſides, if they had continued in our poſſeſſion, it is more than probable that they might have become a ſource of future conteſts between the Engliſh and the Americans.

On a candid examination of the conceſſions which were made to the Houſe of Bourbon, they were certainly much greater in appearance than in reality, as they can ſcarcely be ſaid to afford it more real advantages than were in its poſſeſſion before the war: its commerce would ceive no other increaſe than what might proceed from an intercourſe with the United States of America; and there could be no doubt but the latter would find it their intereſt to give a commercial preference to Great Britain. If France and Spain, in the powerful efforts they had made to ſeparate the North American colonies from Great Britain, were prompted by the expectation of monopolizing their trade, they would certainly find themſelves extremely miſtaken: they would ſhare no more of it than was perfectly conſiſtent with the intereſts of the Americans; who would, like all other trading nations, be governed by the mere proſpect of gain, diveſted of all other conſiderations.

The treaty with the United States of America, as far as it related to their independence, had, in a great meaſure, been previouſly formed by Parliament. The only points that remained for diſcuſſion, were the arrangement of the boundaries, the ſettlement of the fiſheries, and the terms ſtipulated for the Loyaliſts. Theſe were defended in the following manner:—

By the line of boundary, all the back ſettlements, and the whole country between the Allegany mountains and the Miſſiſſippi, were ceded to the United States: to have retained the large tract behind them, for the purpoſe of ſettling it with perſons of different political principles, would have been little better than laying the foundation of new war and freſh diſturbances.

A. D. 1783 bances. The free navigation of the Miſſiſſippi was, however, reſerved. The profits to be derived from the poſſeſſion of theſe northern diſtricts, had been greatly over-rated. Even Canada did not yield to the mother country a balance in trade in any wiſe equivalent to its coſt: the expences incurred on account of that province, had, on the average of ſeveral years, amounted to the annual ſum of 800,000l. On the other hand, the exports from Great Britain to Canada were only 140,000l. and the imports no more than 50,000l. It could not, therefore be contended, that 50,000l. a year was a ſufficient object with a great trading nation to induce the continuation of a war, of which its repreſentatives in Parliament had declared the moſt poſitive abhorrence. But, in fact, the trade to Canada was not given up; it was only divided; and in ſuch a manner, as to prove beneficial to Great Britain. Monopolies are at all times odious; and whatever can conduce to rivalſhip, advances the ſpirit of traffic. It was alſo to be obſerved, that the beſt reſources of trade in Canada lie to the northward: for though beavers are to be found in all thoſe countries of North America which are ſituated between the 30th and 60th degrees of latitude, yet their furs are much thicker, and the animals themſelves more numerous, in the northern than in the ſouthern climates.

The ceſſion of Ponobſcot had been ſtated as a loſs to Great Britain, as depriving it of a territory that had furniſhed maſts for the navy in great abundance: but that objection could not be made with any degree of truth; as that country was ſo exhauſted of timber, that there was not a tree growing in it fit for a maſt of any conſiderable ſize: nor, indeed, was Great Britain in want of plentiful reſources to ſupply herſelf with that article.

The neceſſity which it was univerſally acknowledged there was for obtaining a permanent peace, by ſuppreſſing any ground of jealouſy and contention, juſtified the Canada boundaries; and they were not leſs ſtrongly ſupported by that liberal principle which had begun to extend itſelf over Europe, and which was eager to break the oppreſſive chains of monopoly. It was an acknowledged commercial maxim, that monopolies were, generally conſidered, injurious; and if there is a nation which ought to reject them, it is England. Situated as we are, there is nothing we ought to covet ſo much as a free trade: our real intereſt and proſperity conſiſted in it; and no happier policy could be adopted than to extend by negociation, a liberal and enlarged plan of commerce. We had acted upon theſe principles with reſpect to Ireland, and it would be equally beneficial to exerciſe a ſimilar liberality in our tranſactions with America: the caſes were ſimilar; and while the one was commended, it was folly to rail againſt the other: but, in fact, the apparent generoſity which had been ſhown to the United States, was œconomy to ourſelves.

It was made an objection to the negociation with the Americans, that they were allowed to fiſh on the banks of Newfoundland, and in all the bays and creeks, as well as on the coaſts of his Britannic Majeſty's dominions in America. But it had been very properly urged by the American commiſſioners, that the refuſal to them of this right of fiſhing, would be a manifeſtation of hoſtile intentions, and tend to preclude every hope of reconciliation. Beſides, the fiſhery lay in their part of the ocean, and it was, in reality, impoſſible to exclude them from it by any kind of reſtrictions: and even if it had been poſſible to make them renounce this claim, the perpetual violation of ſuch a compact, would have proved an endleſs ſource of animoſity and contention. But further, it ſhould be conſidered, that there are two ſeaſons for the fiſhery of Newfoundland; the firſt commences in February, and the laſt in May or June. The firſt ſeaſon is not ſo important; but, ſuch as it is, it muſt belong excluſively to the Americans: for no ſhips from England or France can take their ſtations there at ſuch an early

1783 period of the year. It is a privilege which the Americans poſſeſs from the vicinity of their coaſt: it is an advantage which nature has given them; and to attempt to overthrow it, would not only be unjuſt, but impracticable. With reſpect to the ſecond, or principal fiſhery, the advantages were all on our ſide, from the poſſeſſion of Newfoundland, where none but ourſelves were entitled to the privilege of drying and curing fiſh. It was in conſequence of this advantage, that we did not ſtand in need of the liberty of carrying on any fiſhery on the coaſt of the countries belonging to the American ſtates.

No common degree of diſcontent had been expreſſed againſt that article of the treaty by which the Congreſs was to recommend the caſe of the Loyaliſts to the conſideration of the different ſtates which compoſed the American confederacy. But, on this point, only one alternative preſented itſelf; either to accept from Congreſs their recommendation to the provincial ſtates in favour of thoſe unfortunate people, or to continue the war. The American commiſſioners had no inſtructions to proceed further than they did, nor could they poſſibly receive any; as it was not in the power of Congreſs itſelf to do more than ſtrongly to recommend the Loyaliſts to pity and favour. In all its meaſures, ſince its firſt conſtitution, for providing either money or men, Congreſs had never gone further than to offer their recommendation to the provincial aſſemblies, and it has always been received with reſpect and deference. But if, after all, the loyaliſts ſhould not be received and cheriſhed in the boſom of their own country, it could not be ſuppoſed that England was ſo loſt to gratitude and honour, as not to afford them an aſylum; and it would be ſurely a much wiſer meaſure to conſole them, in the moſt ample manner, for their loſſes, than to heap diſtreſs upon the nation by continuing the calamities of war. Without ſpilling another drop of blood, and with one-fifth part of the expence of a campaign, eaſe and happineſs might be given to the Loyaliſts, in as full a manner as they had been ever enjoyed by them. Nor ſhould it be paſſed by without obſervation, that no expedient was left untried to obtain the moſt complete re-eſtabliſhment of the Loyaliſts in their original ſituation.—This point was urged in preference to all the reſt: nay, ſo forcibly, and in ſuch a peremptory manner was it inſiſted upon by the Britiſh commiſſioners, that the very negociation itſelf was ſuſpended, and very near being broken off, on the American commiſſioners declaring the ſtate of their powers, which has been already deſcribed.—Beſides, it muſt ſurely be allowed, that policy dictated, with regard to America, that we ſhould not be governed by ſlight and temporary conſiderations, but by the view of obtaining real and laſting advantages. It was our intereſt to guard againſt the poſſibility of future reſentments, and to lay the foundation of an affection and unity, which would terminate in an enlarged ſcheme of commercial intercourſe, and in a communication of mutual proſperity which might endure for ages.

Such was the manner in which the miniſtry defended their work of peace: and we now proceed to ſtate, with all poſſible brevity, the principles on which it was diſapproved.

That part of the coaſt of Newfoundland where the French were to enjoy an excluſive fiſhery, could not, in reaſon, be deemed leſs productive than that we retained. It had been ſpecifically demanded as a proportionable ſhare by the French miniſtry; and there is no reaſon to imagine that they would, knowingly, have contented themſelves with the worſt.

The iſlands of St. Pierre and Miquelon were ſuſceptible of more improvement in the article of fortification, and would prove of more utility in time of war than had been repreſented.—Their ſituation alone commanded the Gulf of St. Laurence, and when properly ſtrengthened,

might

A. D. 1783 might greatly moleſt our fiſhery on the banks of Newfoundland, and interrupt our navigation to Canada.

The ceſſion of Tobago and St. Lucia was a very pernicious meaſure.—In a commercial light, the firſt of theſe iſlands was of very great importance, as its cotton was the beſt in the Weſt Indies. The ſecond was a ſtation whoſe utility in war was never doubted: it was a conſtant check upon the operations of the enemy in thoſe parts; it had enabled us to keep a continual eye on the motions of their fleets; and had, in fact, been the cauſe of the glorious victory on the 12th of April, which had given ſo favourable a turn to the ſituation of our affairs.

Nothing could be more miſchievous or improvident than the yielding up Senegal and Goree. The miniſtry might have learned from the laſt peace, that France was clearly of opinion that the gum trade could not exiſt without the poſſeſſion of one of theſe places. It was upon this principle, ſuggeſted by France, and admitted by us, that they were then divided, and that England and France were ſecured reſpectively in a participation of the trade: but now, that they are united, the trade is excluſively in the power of France. It had been urged, that the trade was an object of trifling importance; but without it, two great branches of our manufacture, that of printed linens, and that of ſilks and gauzes, would be deſtroyed. The want of it muſt be very much felt indeed by us in caſe of another war; and, during peace, the price of the commodity would be adjuſted by France.

With reſpect to the abrogation of all the former articles relative to Dunkirk, it was allowed that much difference of opinion exiſted with reſpect to the importance of this harbour; but its deficiencies, in other reſpects, were abundantly made up by the peculiar advantages of its ſituation. The baſon, when opened and repaired, would be capable of containing twenty or thirty ſhips of conſiderable ſize and burthen; which, iſſuing out at all ſeaſons, would annoy our trade in its very centre, and counterbalance, in ſome meaſure, the advantages of our local ſituation for commerce.

To theſe conceſſions ought to be added the reſtoration of their ſettlements, and other important advantages ſecured to the French in the Eaſt Indies. Pondicherry was not only given back, but to render it the more acceptable, a large territory was made to accompany it. A free, independent, and, which is more alarming, an undefined trade in this quarter of the world was preſented to France; and, in effect, ſhe had obtained the liberty of ſurrounding Chandernagore with a fortification: for what interpretation but this can be aſſigned to the article conferring the privilege of ſurrounding that place with a ditch?—During the laſt peace, the French had made what they called a ditch in this ſtation; but when General Campbell inſpected it, he without heſitation pronounced it to be a fortification, and it was accordingly deſtroyed by the ſervants of the Eaſt India Company. The permiſſion therefore to reſtore this ditch, would, at beſt, endanger contention and diſturbance, but would likewiſe, in all probability, end in improving Chandernagore into a place of arms, and a formidable poſt in the centre of our government.

In this manner, it was ſaid, had France, though unſucceſsful in the Eaſt, and defeated in the Weſt Indies; when deprived of her fiſhery in the North American ſeas, and cut off from the moſt lucrative branch of the African trade; when her marine began viſibly to decline, and ours to recover its aſcendancy; in this inferiority of circumſtances, her negociators had been able to frame a treaty as advantageous as if the entire ſuperiority was on her ſide.

A. D.
1783 The treaty with Spain underwent the following ſtrictures :—

By the ceſſion of Minorca we had loſt an iſland of the utmoſt importance to the ſupport of our Mediterranean trade in time of war.—There our men of war, privateers, and merchantmen found an harbour to refit, when the occaſion required it, and a certain refuge from the enemy.

Whatever reaſons might be offered for the ceſſion of Weſt Florida, the ſurrender of Eaſt Florida could not, by the aid of any ſophiſtry, find a plauſible juſtification. The latter province, whether in point of ſituation or of commercial produce, had either been little underſtood, or deſignedly under-rated. It poſſeſſed one of the fineſt harbours in the world, called the Bay of Tampa, or Eſpiritu Santo, ſituated in an healthy climate, and where ſhips were ſafe from the annoyance of worms. Beſides, the coaſt of Eaſt Florida was covered with ſmall iſlands, from whence privateers might run to ſea, and attack our Jamaica trade as it paſſed the Gulf: and this inconvenience was the more to be feared in future, from the loſs of Georgia, whoſe harbours formerly ſerved both to protect our trade and to ſhelter it from tempeſts. It poſſeſſed alſo ſome internal reſources, and was capable of great improvement. The people ſettled in it were firmly attached to the Britiſh government : but its chief recommendation was the convenience of its ſituation as an aſylum for the perſecuted Loyaliſts, which would have been far preferable to the comfortleſs climate of Nova Scotia.

The terms granted to America partook of the reprehenſive obſervations which had fallen upon the other branches of the peace. It was conſidered as an unneceſſary ſacrifice of the intereſts of Great Britain, that the limits aſſigned to the dependencies of that country and the United States, left the latter in poſſeſſion of a multiplicity of ſtrong places, conſtructed and fortified at a vaſt expence to England, and the ceſſion of which was not juſtified by any valid reaſon whatever. By this ceſſion, a conſiderable part, if not the whole of the fur trade, was for ever transferred to the United States, and all attempts to defend it upon the principle of a free trade were abſurd and frivolous. The arguments drawn from the amount of exports and imports,, would make rather for the entire ceſſion of Canada ; and, without the interior trade of that country, it was a mockery to keep the two forts of Montreal and Quebec, to be ſupported by this kingdom at a very great expence, and to become a ſubject of future diſagreement. But the balance had not been fairly ſtated ; for the charge was, in a great degree, to be placed to the account of the war ; and the profits would have been very great in peace, had we not given away the moſt valuable part of the province. We held Charleſtown, in South Carolina, which gave us, in a great meaſure, the command of that province. We were maſters of New York and the neighbouring iſles, eſpecially the large and important one of Long Iſland. Theſe being the head-quarters of the Britiſh armies, and lying in the centre of North America, kept the whole continent in awe. The Indian countries and nations contiguous to the back ſettlements were in our intereſt ; and, in the colonies themſelves, we had numbers of zealous friends and adherents : even among thoſe who profeſſed themſelves our enemies, multitudes were very deſirous of terminating the war, at all events, and did not heſitate to expreſs their ſentiments in the moſt unreſerved manner. The Canadian merchants had, at an enormous expence, erected forts and ſtorehouſes on the banks of the lakes, from a conviction of the great profits which were to be derived from the commerce they had eſtabliſhed in the interior parts of the country ; but theſe would now prove of little uſe, from the ſuperior ſhare which the Americans could not fail to derive of all the benefits produced in future by a commercial

mercial intercourſe with the Indians, in conſequence of the prodigious extent of territory ſo extravagantly ceded by the treaty.

The article concerning the Loyaliſts was attacked with great ſeverity. The reſtitution of their property, confiſcated during the war for their fidelity to our cauſe, had been refuſed by the American commiſſioners, on pretence that neither they, nor Congreſs itſelf, could comply with it, any further than by recommendation to the different ſtates: if ſuch were the powers of Congreſs, or of thoſe whom it commiſſioned to treat on its behalf, they were totally inadequate to the proper purpoſes of treating, and tended only to delude thoſe with whom they pretended to negociate.

The demand was in itſelf ſo juſt, and founded on ſo many hiſtorical precedents, that Congreſs could not poſſibly plead a want of foreſight that it would be made. It had been uſual, in all ages, on the ceſſation of a civil war, to grant a general amneſty. No other motives but thoſe of the baſeſt and moſt barbarous revenge, could induce men to expreſs any averſion to ſuch an humane and neceſſary meaſure: next to the cruelty of ſuch a refuſal, was the meanneſs of thoſe who ſubmitted to it. Circumſtances empowered this nation to have acted with ſuch firmneſs, as to compel the Americans to relax their obſtinacy in this particular. Until they had conſented to a generous treatment of the Loyaliſts, we ought to have with-held the reſtitution of the many ſtrong places ſtill remaining in our hands, and made the ſurrender of them the price of their acquieſcence in our demands in favour of the brave and faithful people who had ſuffered ſo much on our account.

Such were the leading arguments employed in favour of, and againſt the peace. The debates on that ſubject in the Houſe of Commons laſted throughout the night; and, at eight in the morning, the miniſterial addreſs was rejected by a majority of 16; 208 voting for, and 224 againſt it. In the Houſe of Lords, the miniſtry was more fortunate, as the addreſs moved by them there, was carried in their favour, by 72 votes again 59.—Four days after this debate, the oppoſition, encouraged by their ſucceſs, moved, in conſequence of it, "That the conceſſions made to the enemies of Great Britain were greater than they were entitled to, on a comparative view of their ſituation and that of this country." This motion revived the preceding altercation; but oppoſition again remained victorious, by a majority of ſeventeen: 190 voting for miniſtry, and 207 againſt it.

In this manner ended the parliamentary debates occaſioned by the peace.—In the mean time, a negociation had been opened with the States-General at the Hague. At the cloſe of the laſt year, after the proviſional treaty with America had been concluded, and while thoſe with France and Spain were in great forwardneſs, the Dutch miniſters at Paris propoſed a negociation with the Britiſh miniſter at that court, on the terms offered to them in the month of April preceding; but they met with a refuſal, in their turn, and were given to underſtand, that having put a negative on the endeavours of Great Britain to effect a particular reconciliation with Holland, that country had no right to expect any more than to be placed on the ſame footing as other powers.

Preliminary articles of peace being, however, agreed upon between Great Britain on the one part, and by France and Spain on the other, in the January following, a ſuſpenſion of arms took place at the ſame time with reſpect to Holland, by which the Dutch were included in the general pacification. But notwithſtanding the definitive arrangements among the other belligerent powers, in conſequence of the reſtoration of peace, were finally concluded in September, it was not till then that the States-General came to a preliminary ſettlement with Great Britain.

A. D. 1783 The conſequences which had been predicted to the Dutch, on their taking part againſt the Engliſh, were ſtrictly verified. Impelled by the narrow maxims of a commercial jealouſy, and improvident of all concerns but thoſe of the preſent hour, they liſtened to the clamours of an intereſted faction, and were deluded by the proſpect of advantages which they have not obtained. An honourable adherence to the intereſt of Great Britain, which the experience of two centuries had ſo forcibly proved to be their own, would have operated as an effectual check upon that power it chiefly behoves them to keep within due bounds. Little more than a reſpectable ſyſtem of neutrality, or, at moſt, an explicit determination to preſerve inviolate their friendſhip and engagements with this country, would have been ſufficient, in conjunction with the acting ſtrength of Great Britain, to deter its enemies from forming that combination which coſt it ſuch a profuſion of blood and treaſure to reſiſt.

A conduct framed upon ſuch principles, would have ſupported that character of conſiſtency and foreſight for which they had been ſo long renowned; it would have ſecured that independent ſituation which they had hitherto ſo happily maintained; and it would have prevented the degradation of being forced to ſeek the protection of a power whoſe ambition was proverbial in the political world, and the effects of which no people had more woefully experienced than themſelves, at different periods of their government.

After Holland, Spain was the greateſt ſufferer among thoſe who had formed the confederacy againſt Great Britain.—The recovery of Minorca and the Floridas, was but a poor compenſation for the prodigious expence and loſs of men incurred at the ſiege of Gibraltar, and in the various naval expeditions and extraordinary exertions that monarchy was obliged to make, in conſequence of its engagements with France.

All Europe, without excepting its own ſubjects, were well convinced of the folly of Spain in contributing to the independence of the Britiſh colonies. It will, without doubt, one day feel the miſchiefs ariſing from a proximity to a people who inherit, in a very great degree, the courage and enterprizing diſpoſition of the nation from which they ſprung, and who have already given very ſufficient proofs that they will omit no opportunity of extending their limits, and carrying their commerce as far as their power and circumſtances will enable them.

Even France itſelf, though it may be ſaid to have lopped off a limb from the coloſſal power of the Britiſh empire, has bought the darling object at too great a price. The reſources of that kingdom were ſo exhauſted, and its finances ſo completely reduced, that in the month of October in this year, the bank of Paris, which was ſupported by the whole ſtrength of government, ſtopped payment. Nor was this all,—for it ſoon appeared, in a variety of inſtances, how very ſhort indeed of their expectations thoſe benefits would prove, which they were ſo ſanguine in promiſing to themſelves, on the emancipation of the Britiſh North American colonies from their dependence on the parent ſtate.

Nor does the change in their political ſyſtem appear to be fraught with any real advantage to the United States.—Whatever may be their future deſtiny, it is very evident that a long period will paſs away before they can arrive at a permanent and ſatisfactory ſettlement of their internal affairs, or acquire a political ſtability and national eminence. Their commerce, from which they had formed ſuch extenſive and flattering proſpects, will long feel the want of the ſuſtaining hand of Great Britain, and convince ſuch as are not already convinced, that their ſeparation from this country is by no means that great political good of which they had been taught to boaſt with ſo much confidence.

A. D. 1783 Great Britain, on the other hand, though deprived of thoſe colonies which ſhe had planted and reared wih ſo much care, and protected with ſo much glory, ſtill remained an object of terror and admiration to all her enemies. With a ſpirit ſuperior to all difficulties, and with reſources, though greatly tried, yet by no means exhauſted, ſhe ſtill held up her head among the nations of the world.

The events of the laſt campaign were objects of ſerious conſideration with her enemies.—The ſucceſſes obtained by Great Britain, and the valour with which they were accompliſhed, had fixed the attention of all Europe. France and Spain began to reflect with a growing apprehenſion on the precarious nature of thoſe benefits which they had expected would naturally have reſulted from their combination; they therefore came to the reſolution of deſiſting from the vaſt pretenſions they had formed, and of contenting themſelves with having obtained independence to the coloniſts of North America, leaving to the Americans themſelves, the grateful taſk of rendering, if it were poſſible, their diſmemberment from the Britiſh empire beneficial to their allies, and detrimental to Great Britain.

With whatever ſeverity the terms of this peace might have been treated at the time of its concluſion, there was more than one period of the war, when it was univerſally believed, that peace would never have been purchaſed without making far greater ſacrifices on the part of this country. Without entering into an examination of the arguments employed by contending parties on the occaſion; we, who now feel the effects of that peace, and are witneſſes to the growing proſperity of the empire, ſhall, without heſitation pronounce, that the ſtateſmen who formed this peace, deſerve to be ranked among the firſt friends of their country.

In this manner terminated a war, the moſt important that has been known ſince the diſcovery of the new world. Both hemiſpheres were deeply concerned in the iſſue of it. At its very commencement, it was evidently perceived in Europe, that if Great Britain ſhould be finally deprived of the ſovereignty over her revolted colonies, a new ſyſtem of politics would diffuſe itſelf in proceſs of time, over every part of the globe.

In this great revolution, the European States, poſſeſſed of dominions in America, beheld an immenſe portion of the earth, hitherto ſubject to their obedience and ſubſervient to their deſigns, animated by the ſucceſsful example of a numerous proportion of its inhabitants to throw off this yoke and claim independence. An event of this kind, by confining them to the limits of their own country, would of courſe produce a very great change of their politics and intereſts, and oblige them to adopt new maxims of conduct both in their domeſtic and foreign concerns.

Thoſe powers, on the other hand, who had no territories in America, would ſtill greatly participate in the effects of this change, from the connections ſtill ſubſiſting, and the new correſpondence of it, between the European nations, in every branch of political and commercial intercourſe.

Great Britain, though, in appearance, greatly injured by her immenſe loſs of territory, would, nevertheleſs, from the excellence of her conſtitution and the wiſdom of her government; but, above all, from the genius of induſtry and perſevering ſpirit of her people, retain, in all probability, the advantages and importance which had ſo long reſulted from them, and ſtill maintain her ſuperior rank among the powers of Europe.

Among thoſe truths which it moſt concerns mankind to know, the Britiſh nation had eminently proved, that the ſplendor and felicity of a ſtate by no means depend on the extent of its territorial poſſeſſions, ſo much as on the improvement of thoſe opportunities which are derived

from

A. D. 1783 from nature and ſituation. Theſe were benefits of which no viciſſitudes of fortune could deprive this country; and it was in the regular experience of the paſt efficacy, the confidence of its future proſperity looked for a certain foundation.

This truth had at no time been ſo powerfully elucidated, as during this terrible conteſt. Diſpoſſeſſed of thoſe colonies on which it had been conſtantly affirmed that her greatneſs principally depended,—oppoſed by them with a force equal in ſtrength and ſpirit to that of her moſt formidable enemies,—aſſailed by theſe in every quarter,—attacked by her antient allies, and abandoned by all the world; in this tremendous ſituation, cut off from a variety of her former commercial reſources, and relying wholly on herſelf, ſhe ſtill found means to reſiſt the moſt powerful combination that is recorded in the hiſtory of the world. She fought her foes by ſea and land, and with advantage, wherever they were to be found, and on the ſea their trade was nearly ruined, while their naval loſſes were infinitely ſuperior to her own; the balance againſt them, at the cloſe o the war, being 28 ſhips of the line and 37 frigates, carrying, altogether, near 2,000 guns.

Having ſuſtained this dreadful conflict with ſo much glory, and terminated it with ſo much honour, without the leaſt aſſiſtance or interfering friendſhip of any power, againſt ſuch an hoſt of enemies, ſhe roſe from amidſt all her dangers and difficulties, to offer to the world ſuch a ſpectacle of renown as the annals of time had never recorded.

In conſequence, however, of the cenſure paſſed on the peace by the Houſe of Commons, the Earl of Shelburne quitted his office of Firſt Commiſſioner of the Treaſury, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer declared in Parliament, that he only held his place till a ſucceſſor ſhould be appointed to fill it: and as it was ſome time before a new adminiſtration could be arranged, a miniſterial interregnum enſued, during which time the kingdom remained without a reſponſible government. At length, on the ſecond of April, a new miniſtry was announced to the public, of which the following perſons formed the Cabinet Council: the Duke of Portland, Firſt Commiſſioner of the Treaſury,—Lord North and Mr. Charles Fox, Secretaries of State,—Lord J. Cavendiſh, Chancellor of the Exchequer,—Lord Keppel, Firſt Commiſſioner of the Admiralty,—Lord Stormont, Preſident of the Council,—Lord Townſhend, Maſter General of the Ordnance,—the Earl of Carliſle, Lord Privy Seal,—Mr. Fitzpatrick, Secretary at War, &c.

The firſt object of importance that engaged the attention of Parliament, after the change of adminiſtration, was the opening a commercial intercourſe with the ſtates of North America. By the prohibitory acts which had paſſed during the rebellion, all communication with that country, in the way of trade, had been entirely cut off; and though it was the prevailing opinion in Parliament, that thoſe acts were virtually repealed by the acknowledgment of the independence of the United States, yet, in their new character, they became ſubject to other reſtrictions which it was neceſſary to relax and modify: a bill for this purpoſe had been brought into the Houſe of Commons by the late miniſtry; but, during the great variety of diſcuſſions which it underwent, difficulties of ſuch a complicated nature had ariſen, that it never got through the committee.

In the mean time, no regulations whatever having been ſtipulated by the treaty of peace, the commercial intereſts of the country were ſuffering very materially; for not only a number of veſſels, richly freighted for America, were detained in harbour, but there was great danger of having the market pre-occupied by our rivals. In this emergency, the new miniſters thought it beſt to drop the old bill for the preſent, and to paſs two ſhort bills, one to repeal

A. D. 1783 all the prohibitory acts,—the other to remove the neceſſity of requiring manifeſtoes or other documents for any ſhips belonging to the United States of America, arriving from thence at any port of this kingdom, or upon entering or clearing out from any port within the ſaid United States, and to lodge in the King and Council, for a limited time, a power to make ſuch other regulations as might be expedient.

On the 16th of July the ſeſſion of Parliament was cloſed: his Majeſty's ſpeech to both Houſes on the occaſion, contained nothing particular, but that the exigencies of the public ſervice might require their being called together again at an early period.

It may be neceſſary to obſerve, that the ſtate of the affairs of the Eaſt India Company, continued to be the object of unremitted inveſtigation in the two parliamentary committees appointed for that purpoſe, but that the unſettled ſtate of government prevented any effectual meaſures from being taken in conſequence of their reports. The proceedings of the enſuing ſeſſion will afford us an opportunity of entering more particularly into thoſe great and important objects.

The following treaty between the Mahrattas and the Eaſt India Company, which was finally ratified in the month of February in this year, was a moſt deſirable event, and promiſed the return of ſtability to our affairs in the Eaſt. This peace was negociated on principles which were equally honourable to the contracting parties; and, in the liberality of its articles, there was a favourable prognoſtic of its duration.

"Article I. It is ſtipulated and agreed to between the Honourable the Engliſh Eaſt India Company and the Peſhwa, through the mediation of Madhoo Row Scindia, that all countries, places, cities, and forts, including Baſſeen, &c. which have been taken from the Peſhwa, during the war that has ariſen ſince the treaty ſettled by Colonel Upton, and have come into the poſſeſſion of the Engliſh, ſhall be delivered up to the Peſhwa. The territories, forts, cities, &c. to be reſtored, ſhall be delivered within the ſpace of two months from the period when this treaty ſhall become complete (as hereafter deſcribed) to ſuch perſons as the Peſhwa, or his miniſter Nana Furnayeſe ſhall appoint.

"II. It is agreed between the Engliſh Company and the Peſhwa, that Salſette, and three other iſlands, viz. Elephanta, Caranja, and Hog, which are included in the treaty of Colonel Upton, ſhall continue for ever in the poſſeſſion of the Engliſh. If any other iſlands have been taken in the courſe of the preſent war, they ſhall be delivered up to the Peſhwa.

"III. Whereas it was ſtipulated in the fourth article of the treaty of Colonel Upton, 'That the Peſhwa and all the chiefs of the Mahratta ſtate, do agree to give the Engliſh Company for ever all right and title to the city Baroach, as full and complete as ever they collected from the Moguls or otherwiſe, without retaining any claim of Chout, or any other claims whatever; ſo that the Engliſh Company ſhall poſſeſs it without participation or claim of any kind.' This article is accordingly continued in full force and effect.

"IV. The Peſhwa having formerly, in the treaty of Colonel Upton, agreed, by way of friendſhip, to give up the Engliſh a country of three lacks of rupees near Baroach, the Engliſh do now, at the requeſt of Madhoo Row Scindia, conſent to relinquiſh their claim to the ſaid country in favour of the Peſhwa.

"V. The country which Seeajee and Futty Sing Gwickwar gave to the Engliſh, and which is mentioned in the ſeventh article of the treaty with Colonel Upton, being therein left in a ſtate of ſuſpenſe; the Engliſh, with a view to obviate all future diſputes, now agree, that

1783 that it ſhall be reſtored, and it is hereby ſettled, that, if the ſaid country be a part of the eſtabliſhed territory of the Gwickwar, it ſhall be reſtored to the Gwickwar; and if it ſhall be a part of the Peſhwa's territories, it ſhall be reſtored to the Peſhwa.

"VI. The Engliſh engage, that having allowed Ragonaut Row a period of four months, from the time in which this treaty ſhall become complete, to fix on a place of reſidence, they will not after the expiration of the ſaid period afford him any ſupport, protection, or aſſiſtance, nor ſupply him with money for his expences: and the Peſhwa on his part engages, that if Ragonaut Row will voluntarily, and of his own accord, repair to Maha Rajah Madhoo Row Scindia, and quietly reſide with him, the ſum of 25,000 rupees per month ſhall be paid him for his maintenance, and no injury whatever ſhall be offered to him by the Peſhwa, or any of his people.

"VII. The Honourable Engliſh Eaſt India Company and the Peſhwa, being deſirous that their reſpective allies ſhall be included in this peace, it is hereby mutually ſtipulated, that each party ſhall make peace with the allies of the other in the manner herein-after ſpecified.

"VIII. The territory which has long been the eſtabliſhed jagheer of Seeajee Gwickwar, and Futty Sing Gwickwar, that is to ſay, whatever territory Futty Sing Gwickwar poſſeſſed at the commencement of the preſent war, ſhall hereafter for ever remain on the uſual footing in his poſſeſſion; and the ſaid Futty Sing ſhall, from the date of this treaty being complete, pay for the future to the Peſhwa the tribute as uſual, previous to the preſent war; and ſhall perform ſuch ſervices, and be ſubject to ſuch obedience as have long been eſtabliſhed, and cuſtomary. No claims ſhall be made on the ſaid Futty Sing, by the Peſhwa, for the period that is paſt.

"IX. The Peſhwa engages, that whereas the Nabob Hyder Ally Cawn, having concluded a treaty with him, hath diſturbed and taken poſſeſſion of territories belonging to the Engliſh and their allies, he ſhall be made to relinquiſh them, and they ſhall be reſtored to the Company, and the Nabob Mahomed Ally Cawn. All priſoners that have been taken on either ſide during the war, ſhall be releaſed, and Hyder Ally Cawn ſhall be made to relinquiſh all ſuch territories belonging to the Engliſh Company, and their allies, as he may have taken poſſeſſion of ſince the ninth of the month Ramazan, in the year 1180, being the date of his treaty with the Peſhwa; and the ſaid territories ſhall be delivered over to the Engliſh, and the Nabob Mahomed Ally Cawn, within ſix months after this treaty being complete: and the Engliſh in ſuch caſe agreed, that ſo long as Hyder Ally Cawn ſhall afterwards abſtain from hoſtilities againſt them and their allies, and ſo long as he ſhall continue in friendſhip with the Peſhwa, that they will, in no reſpect, act hoſtilely towards him.

"X. The Peſhwa engages on his own behalf, as well as on behalf of the Nabob Nizam Ally Cawn, Ragojee Bouſala, Syna Saheb Souba, and the Nabob Hyder Ally Cawn, that they ſhall in every reſpect maintain peace towards the Engliſh and their allies the Nabob Aſoph ul Dowlah Behader, and the Nabob Mahomed Ally Cawn Behader, and ſhall in no reſpect whatever give them any diſturbance. The Engliſh engage on their own behalf, as well as on the behalf of their allies the Nabob Aſoph ul Dowlah, and the Nabob Mahomed Ally Cawn, that they ſhall in every reſpect maintain peace towards the Peſhwa, and his allies the Nabob Nizam Ally Cawn, Ragojee Bouſala, and Syna Saheb: and the Engliſh further engage on their own behalf, as well as on the behalf of their allies, that they will maintain peace alſo towards

A. D. 1783 towards the Nabob Hyder Ally Cawn, under the conditions ſpecified in the ninth article of this treaty.

" XI. The Honourable the Eaſt India Company, and the Peſhwa, mutually agree, that the veſſels of each ſhall offer no diſturbance to the navigation of the veſſels of the other: and the veſſels of each ſhall be allowed acceſs to the ports of the other, where they ſhall meet with no moleſtation, and the fulleſt protection ſhall be reciprocally afforded.

" XII. The Peſhwa, and the chiefs of the Mahratta ſtate, hereby agree, that the Engliſh ſhall enjoy the privilege of trade as formerly, in the Mahratta territories, and ſhall meet with no kind of interruption: and in the ſame manner, the Eaſt India Company agree, that the ſubjects of the Peſhwa ſhall be allowed the privileges of trade without interruption in the territories of the Engliſh.

" XIII. The Peſhwa hereby engages, that he will not ſuffer any factories of other European nations to be eſtabliſhed in his territories, or thoſe of the chiefs dependent on him, excepting only ſuch as are already eſtabliſhed by the Portugueſe; and he will hold no intercourſe of friendſhip with any other European nations: and the Engliſh on their part agree, that they will not afford aſſiſtance to any nation of Decan, or Hindoſtan, at enmity with the Peſhwa.

" XIV. The Engliſh and the Peſhwa mutually agree, that neither will afford any kind of aſſiſtance to the enemies of the other.

" XV. The Honourable the Governor General and Council of Fort William engage, that they will not permit any of the chiefs, dependents, or ſubjects of the Engliſh, the gentlemen of Bombay, Surat, or Madras, to act contrary, at any place, to the terms of this treaty. In the ſame manner the Peſhwa Madhoo Row Pundit Purdhan engages, that none of the chiefs or ſubjects of the Mahratta ſtate ſhall act contrary to them.

" XVI. The Honourable Eaſt India Company, and the Peſhwa Madhoo Row Pundit Purdhan, having the fulleſt confidence in Maha Rajah Subadar Madhoo Row Scindia Behader, they have both requeſted the ſaid Maha Rajah to be the mutual guarantee for the perpetual and invariable adherence of both parties to the conditions of this treaty; and the ſaid Madhoo Row Scindia, from a regard to the welfare of both ſtates, hath taken upon himſelf the mutual guarantee. If either of the parties ſhall deviate from the conditions of this treaty, the ſaid Maha Rajah will join the other party, and will to the utmoſt of his power, endeavour to bring the aggreſſor to a proper underſtanding.

" XVII. It is hereby agreed, that whatever territories, forts or cities in Guzzerat, were granted by Ragonaut Row to the Engliſh, previous to the treaty of Colonel Upton, and have come into their poſſeſſion, the reſtitution of which was ſtipulated in the ſeventh article of the ſaid treaty, ſhall be reſtored agreeable to the terms of the ſaid treaty.

" This treaty, conſiſting of ſeventeen articles, is ſettled at Salbey, in the camp of Maha Rajah Subadar Madhoo Row Scindia, on the fourth of the month Jemmad ul Saany, in the year 1187 of the Hegira, correſponding with the 17th of May, 1782, of the Chriſtian æra, by the ſaid Maha Rajah, and Mr. David Anderſon. A copy hereof ſhall be ſent, by each of the above-named perſons, to their reſpective principals at Fort William and Poonah; and on both copies being returned, the one under the ſeal of the Honourable the Eaſt India Company, and ſignature of the Honourable Governor General and Council of Fort William, ſhall be delivered to Maha Rajah Madhoo Row Scindia Behader, and the other under the ſeal of the Peſhwa Madhoo Row Pundit Purdhan, and the ſignature of Ballagee Pundit Nana Furnaveſe, 1783 ſhall be delivered to Mr. Anderſon; this treaty ſhall be deemed complete and ratified, and the articles herein contained ſhall become binding on both the contracting parties.

Written in the Mahratta character, by Ragoo Bhow Dewan. "In all ſeventeen articles, on the 4th of Jemmad ul Akher, or the 5th of Jeyt Adeck, in the Shukul Pattah, in the year 1182."

Subſcribed in the Mahratta character, by Mahajee Scindia, on the ſame day.

Agreed to what is above written,

(Signed,) D. ANDERSON.

JAMES ANDERSON, } *witneſſes*,
WILLIAM BLAIN, }

A true tranſlation, J. ANDERSON, Aſſiſtant to the Embaſſy.

" Subſcribed in the hand writing of Nana Furnaveſe." Done by me Ballajee Inardine, on the 15th of Mohurrum, in the year 1183 (December 20, 1782) under the ſmall ſeal of the Peſhwa, ratified alſo by Scindia, the 21ſt of Rabbie ul Owal; counterpart ſubſcribed by Mr. Anderſon, the 24th of February, 1783.

Nothing could be more advantageous, or happen more opportunely for the Engliſh, than the concluſion of this treaty with the Mahrattas at ſuch a critical period: for, independent of its commercial benefits, particularly that granted by the ninth article, whereby the ſole right of eſtabliſhing factories in the Mahratta ſtates is veſted in the Eaſt India Company, the detaching ſo powerful a people from the intereſt of Hyder Ally, and converting a formidable enemy into an active friend, was a moſt happy ſtroke of policy, eſpecially as our affairs on the coaſt of Malabar, a ſhort time ſubſequent to this, took a very unfavourable turn,—the expedition of General Matthews into the Canaree country having entirely failed, his army being wholly cut off, and himſelf taken priſoner.—Of this unfortunate tranſaction we ſhall here give the following brief ſtatement.

On the 5th of January, in this year, General Matthews ſtormed the city of Onore, ſituated about 300 miles to the ſouth of Bombay, and one of the principal places in the country of Canaree. The death of Hyder Ally happening about this time, had excited the greateſt expectation in his enemies, of being able to profit by this event. The preſidency of Bombay, in conſequence of it, ſent orders to General Matthews to proceed with all the force he could collect, in order to gain poſſeſſion of Bednure, the capital of the Canaree country, by which means the treaſures of Hyder Ally, which were reputed to be immenſe, would fall into his hands, with all the magazines of war. Colonel Macleod, with as many troops as could be ſpared from our poſſeſſions in Myſore, having joined General Matthews, the open country was ſpeedily reduced; Bednure, which now bore the name of Hyder Nagur, being incapable of defence, was ſurrendered, with all its treaſures, on certain ſtipulations, to the Britiſh commander; Mangalore and Carwar, two ſtrong fortreſſes on the coaſt, were alſo taken, and this fertile and favourite country was completely ſubdued.

On the ſurrender of Bednure, which took place in the beginning of February, the Britiſh commander impriſoned the Indian governor, in direct violation of the articles of capitulation, and committed various irregularities which gave great offence to his principal officers. Col. Macleod, Colonel Humberſtone and Major Shaw left the army, in the midſt of its progreſs, and retired to Bombay. Theſe officers belonged to the King's troops, and were men of approved honour and courage. The moſt bitter recriminations took place between them and the General after this retreat. One point of diſpute among them was a matter of rank: the

commander

A. D. 1783 commander was a general only on the Company's ſtaff, and Colonel Macleod was a ſenior officer in the King's ſervice. Another queſtion reſpected the plunder of Tippoo Saib's unfortunate ſubjects. The diſguſted officers charged General Matthews with making a private agreement with the Viceroy, ſubſequent to the general capitulation, by which that Prince had been permitted to claim a conſiderable treaſure that was at firſt deſtined for the plunder of the army. The General, in return, declared, that his whole forces were looſe and unfeeling as the moſt licentious freebooters, and that their mutinous diſpoſitions and unruly behaviour, had rendered it impoſſible for him to take thoſe meaſures which might be neceſſary for the preſervation of his conqueſt.

The Preſidency of Bombay took the moſt decided part with Colonel Macleod; and on the 27th of March they determined to remove General Matthews and appointed Colonel Macleod to ſucceed him. In the mean time, they received intelligence from the General of a force collecting againſt him, and the moſt preſſing applications for a reinforcement. But, whether from inability, or the impreſſion they felt from the diſapprobation of his conduct, we cannot immediately determine, no reinforcement was prepared. Colonel Macleod, who left Bombay on the 5th of April, took with him only the Ranger cutter to convey him to the fortreſs of Onore.

The loſs of Mangalore was an object of great concern to Tippoo Saib, who had ſucceeded to his father's deſigns as well as to his power: as by the ſurrender of his principal ſea-port, an end was put to the project of becoming a maritime power, which Hyder Ally had formed and brought into ſomewhat of a ſtate of maturity,—a number of ſtout ſhips, three of which were of the line, being already far advanced in their conſtruction. This Prince, therefore, prepared immediately to march againſt the Britiſh forces in the Bednure country, reſolving to evacuate the Carnatic, rather than loſe a province which his father had made the ſeat of his empire and his favourite reſidence.

The army with which Tippoo Saib advanced to the reſcue of his capital, amounted to 100,000 men. The force which General Matthews had to oppoſe him, amounted only to between 2,000 and 3,000, of whom 600 or 700 only were Europeans. It had been expected by his officers, that, on being appriſed of the multitudes that were approaching, he would have poſted himſelf at the paſſes on the mountains leading down to the ſea coaſt, where, it was believed, he might effectually have protected his late conqueſts; but, as it muſt appear, under the moſt extreme degree of infatuation, he marched out of Bednure, and gave battle to Tippoo Saib in an open plain. The reſult of his temerity was, that, after a ſhort conteſt, his little army was routed with great ſlaughter, and he was obliged, with the remains of his ſmall force, to take ſhelter in a fortreſs that ſtood upon an eminence near the town,—here they were immediately inveſted; where, after ſuſtaining a ſiege of near three weeks, he at length offered to capitulate. The terms obtained of Tippoo Saib were, the ſecurity of private property, and that the Britiſh forces ſhould be conducted in ſafety to Bombay. But as theſe conditions deprived the garriſon of the immenſe booty it had acquired by the taking of Bednure, an avaricious endeavour was made to elude them: for this purpoſe, the treaſures that had been found in the fortreſs was divided entirely among the garriſon, and no part of it was left to the conqueror, to whom, according to the capitulation, the whole belonged: but this contrivance was ſoon diſcovered, and being interpreted by Tippoo Saib as an infraction of the agreement made on the part of the garriſon, he reſolved, from that moment, to conſider the articles of the capitulation to be annulled by it. In conſequence of this reſolution, the General, with

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1783 all his officers and men, were put under confinement, and ſtripped of all they poſſeſſed. After ſuffering the greateſt indignities, they were ſent, loaded with irons, to a fort up the country, where they endured a long and barbarous impriſonment. The fate of their unfortunate General has been variouſly reported: both he and ſeveral officers are ſaid to have been put to death with circumſtances of the greateſt cruelty.

Immediately after the reduction of Bednure, Tippoo Saib appeared, with his vaſt army, before Mangalore, the recovery of which was the next great object of his wiſhes: the place was well commanded and well garriſoned; but the defences were in no degree worthy the defenders; ſo that it required all the abilities of Major Campbell, ſeconded by the approved valour of the 42d regiment, and ſupported by ſome brave battalions of ſepoys, to ſupply the defects of the fortifications. While the place was completely inveſted by the Oriental troops, the operations of the ſiege were carried on by the French troops that had accompanied them from the Carnatic. In ſhort, notwithſtanding a moſt gallant defence was made by Major Campbell, his garriſon was at length reduced to very great extremity; but they were fortunately relieved from the toils and dangers of their ſituation, by the news which arrived in the month of July of the general peace. This was a ſevere diſappointment to Tippoo Saib, who had expected in a few days to have been maſter of Mangalore, when the French commander acquainted him, that his orders forbade him to act any longer againſt the Engliſh. The ſiege of Mangalore was then converted to a blockade, and though peace was in agitation, Tippoo uſed his utmoſt endeavours to ſtarve them into a ſurrender; but the arrival of General Macleod, with a ſtrong force from Bombay, upon the coaſt, obliged him, unwillingly, to conſent to their receiving a ſupply.

No military event, of any conſideration, afterwards took place on the Malabar coaſt.—Carwar, Onore, and ſome other forts, as well as Mangalore, ſtill continued in the hands of the Engliſh, until, by the peace concluded between the Company and Tippoo Saib, in the following year, a general reſtitution of the conqueſts on both ſides took place, and the tranquillity of India was, for the preſent, fully reſtored.

During theſe tranſactions on the coaſt of Malabar, various military operations were carrying on along the coaſt of Coromandel. From the time that Sir Eyre Coote left the command to General Stuart, to the end of the laſt year, this officer was employed in obſerving the motions of the enemy, and preventing them from becoming maſters of ſeveral places at which their force was directed.

In the beginning of the ſeaſon for action, the Governor and Council of Bengal determined to ſend an ample ſupply to the Preſidency of Madras, in order to enable them to put a final and ſucceſsful termination to the war, which Tippoo Saib ſeemed to poſſeſs an hereditary diſpoſition to proſecute. Sir Eyre Coote, who had, for the benefit of his health, gone by ſea to Bengal, was now entruſted by them with a large ſum of money, with which he embarked for Madras: but when he had almoſt reached his deſtination, he found himſelf in danger of being taken by two French men of war; they chaced him 48 hours,—during which time the ſolicitude and fatigue he under-went, in continuing almoſt the whole time upon deck, occaſioned a relapſe of his former illneſs. The ſhip and treaſure got ſafe into Madras, but to the irreparable loſs of the Eaſt India Company, as well as of his country, the General lived but two days after his arrival.

In the mean time, General Stuart ſeized the opportunity of Tippoo Saib's having quitted the Carnatic, to ſend Colonel Fullarton, with a conſiderable force, to invade the province of

1783 Coimbatour. The ſucceſſes of this officer were great and rapid; but General Stuart, from the more important operations he had in view, was obliged to recal him in the midſt of them.

Though the retreat of Tippoo Saib was an event of very great importance, the advantage was by no means complete while a powerful body of French troops remained in poſſeſſion of Cuddalore, which being in the neighbourhood of Madras, the beſieging it was conſidered as a neceſſary, though very hazardous meaſure, as much attention had been employed in fortiſying it: General Stuart, however, determined to undertake it, and, on the 7th of June, he appeared before it. That officer made his attacks with great judgment, courage and perſeverance; the garriſon defended the town with great ſpirit, and the ſiege was attended with much bloodſhed and ſlaughter to both armies.

While General Stuart preſſed Cuddalore by land, Sir Edward Hughes lay off the harbour to cut off its communication by ſea. This fleet had ſuffered a great diminution of men from the ſcurvy. The violence and contagion of the diſorder had made it neceſſary to ſet numbers of them aſhore for the preſervation of their lives. In order, therefore, to give M. de Suffrein ſuch a deciſive ſuperiority in point of men, as might enable him at once to board the Britiſh ſquadron, M. de Buſſy, who commanded at Cuddalore, ſent him 1,200 of his beſt troops.— Thus provided, it was expected that the French Admiral would not heſitate to cloſe upon the Engliſh, who, though they had two ſhips of the line more than the enemy, were ſo weakly manned from the cauſe already aſſigned, that the real advantage lay entirely on the other ſide.

On the 20th of June, M. De Suffrein approached the Britiſh fleet in order of battle, and though the enemy had the wind in their favour, Sir Edward Hughes immediately brought to in order to receive them. About four o'clock in the afternoon the engagement began, and laſted till ſeven o'clock, when the French fleet hauled off, having preſerved a moſt guarded diſtance during the whole of the combat. The enemy retired in the night to Pondicherry, whither Sir Edward Hughes followed them. On the 22d, he braved them during the day, and anchored in the evening within ſight of them: but the want of water was now ſo extreme, and the number of ſick and wounded ſo great, that the Admiral was under the neceſſity of proceeding to Madras, in order to land the one and to procure a ſupply of the other. The loſs of men in the Engliſh fleet, in this engagement, amounted to 99 killed and 431 wounded; that of the enemy was conſiderably greater. This was the laſt battle between Sir Edward Hughes and M. de Suffrein, and concluded the naval operations between the Engliſh and French in the Eaſt Indies.

On the 25th of this month, the garriſon of Cuddalore, which had been ſtrengthened by a body of near 4,000 men from M. de Suffrein's ſquadron, made a moſt vigorous ſally, which was repelled with the greateſt bravery by the beſiegers. In ſhort, the conteſt appeared to have been proceeding in a manner that promiſed nothing but ruin to the parties engaged in it, when fortunately, to prevent the effuſion of more human blood, the news of peace arrived at Madras, and on the 4th of July a ceſſation of hoſtilities was compleatly ſettled.

In the month of February, in this year, a treaty was ſigned between the Empreſs of Ruſſia and the Queen of Portugal, as follows:

"Article I. Their Majeſties the Empreſs of all the Ruſſias and the Queen of Portugal, convinced of the ſolidity and forcible evidence of the principles laid down in the declaration bearing date the 28th of February 1780, concerning the armed neutrality, their above-ſaid Majeſties do declare, that they not only aſſent freely and fully to the ſaid principles, but on

1783 all occaſions will concur, by every efficacious means, to keep them up in their full force, and to take care that they be ſcrupulouſly adhered to.

“ II. Be it underſtood, that the preſent convention is not, by any means, to be conſtrued as tending to annul the treaties now ſubſiſting between the diſtinct powers of Ruſſia or Portugal, or any other European court whatever; but, on the contrary, ſuch treaties, and the ſtipulations therein made, will as fully bind the ſaid powers as they did any time previous to the ſaid convention, which is not to invalidate, much leſs to enforce a violation of the ſaid treaties.

“ III. The two high contracting powers will continue to obſerve the moſt exact neutrality, and rigorouſly enforce the preventing of all prohibited trade being carried on by their reſpective ſubjects with the powers now at war. By prohibited trade is underſtood all thoſe goods and merchandizes, verbatim expreſſed in the 10th and 11th articles of the treaty of commerce concluded between Ruſſia and Great Britain, on the 20th of June, 1766.

“ IV. In caſe, notwithſtanding all imaginable care to prevent it, the Ruſſian or Portugueſe merchantmen ſhould be taken or inſulted by ſhips belonging to any of the belligerent powers, the complaints of the aggrieved ſovereign ſhall be ſupported and enforced by the other confederates moſt ſerious and urgent remonſtrances: and if, contrary to all expectation, juſtice ſhould be denied, the ſaid high contracting powers will concert together on the means of obtaining redreſs by repriſals.

“ V. If it ſhould ſo happen, that either or both of the ſaid powers be attacked or moleſted, on account and in hatred of the preſent convention, they ſhall join together for a mutual defence, in order to procure themſelves a full ſatisfaction, both to the inſult offered to their flag and the damages ſuſtained by their ſubjects.

“ VI. The preſent ſtipulation ſhall be permanent on both ſides, and be adduced as a rule, whenever the right of neutrality ſhall be called in queſtion.

“ VII. The two contracting powers will give notice, amicably, to the ſovereigns now at war, of this preſent mutual agreement.

“ VIII. The preſent convention ſhall be ratified by the contracting powers, and the ſaid ratifications interchanged within four months from the date hereof, or ſooner if poſſible.

☞ They have been ratified ſince and exchanged.

“ In witneſs whereof, we, the plenipotentiaries, &c. have ſigned and ſealed the preſent.

“ Given at Peterſburg, February 1783.

(Signed,) “ (L. S.) Comte John D'Osterman.
“ (L. S.) Alexander de Bezborodko.
“ (L. S.) Pierre de Bocounin.
“ (L. S.) Fr. Jos. D'Horta Machado.”

On the third day of April in this year, the following treaty of amity and commerce was ſigned at Paris, between the King of Sweden and the United States of North America.

“ Article I. There ſhall be a firm, inviolable and univerſal peace, and a true and ſincere friendſhip between the King of Sweden, his heirs and ſucceſſors, and the United States of America, and the ſubjects of his Majeſty and thoſe of the ſaid States; and between the countries, iſlands, cities and towns, ſituated under the juriſdiction of the King and of the ſaid United States, without any exception of perſons or places; and the conditions agreed to in this preſent treaty, ſhall be perpetual and permanent between the King, his heirs and ſucceſſors, and the United States.

“ II. The

A. D. 1783 "II. The King and the United States engage mutually not to grant hereafter any particular favour to other nations in reſpect to commerce and navigation, which ſhall not immediately become common to the other party, who ſhall enjoy the ſame favour freely, if the conceſſion was freely made, or on allowing the ſame compenſation, if the conceſſion was conditional.

"III. The ſubjects of the King of Sweden ſhall not pay in the ports, havens, roads, countries, iſlands, cities and towns of the United States, or any other nor greater duties or impoſts, of what nature ſoever they may be, than thoſe which the moſt favoured nations are or ſhall be obliged to pay; and they ſhall enjoy all the rights, liberties, privileges, immunities and exemptions in trade, navigation and commerce, which the ſaid nations do or ſhall enjoy, whether in paſſing from one port to another of the United States, or in going to or from the ſame, from or to any part of the world whatever.

"IV. The ſubjects and inhabitants of the ſaid United States ſhall not pay in the ports, havens, roads, iſlands, cities and towns under the denomination of the King of Sweden, any other or greater duties or impoſts, of what nature ſoever they may be, or by what name ſoever called, than thoſe which the moſt favoured nations are or ſhall be obliged to pay; and they ſhall enjoy all the rights, liberties, privileges, immunities and exemptions in trade, navigation and commerce, which the ſaid nations do or ſhall enjoy, whether in paſſing from one port to another of the dominion of his ſaid Majeſty, or in going to or from the ſame, from or to any part of the world whatever.

"V. There ſhall be granted a full, perfect and entire liberty of conſcience to the inhabitants and ſubjects of each party; and no perſon ſhall be moleſted on account of his worſhip, provided he ſubmits ſo far as regards the public demonſtration of it to the laws of the country: moreover, liberty ſhall be granted, when any of the ſubjects or inhabitants of either party die in the territory of the other, to bury them in convenient and decent places, which ſhall be aſſigned for the purpoſe: and the two contracting parties will provide, each in its juriſdiction, that the ſubjects and inhabitants reſpectively may obtain certificates of the death, in caſe the delivery of them is required.

"VI. The ſubjects of the contracting parties in the reſpective ſtates, may freely diſpoſe of their goods and effects either by teſtament, donation or otherwiſe, in favour of ſuch perſons as they think proper; and their heirs in whatever place they ſhall reſide, ſhall receive the ſucceſſion even *ab inteſtato* either in perſon or by their attorney, without having occaſion to take out letters of naturalization. Thoſe inheritances, as well as the capitals and effects, which the ſubjects of the two parties, in changing their abode, ſhall be deſirous of removing from the place of their abode, ſhall be exempted from all duty, called *droit de detraction*, on the part of the government of the two ſtates reſpectively. But it is at the ſame time agreed, that nothing contained in this article ſhall in any manner derogate from the ordinances publiſhed in Sweden againſt emigrations, or which may hereafter be publiſhed, which ſhall remain in full force and vigour. The United States on their part, or any of them, ſhall be at liberty to make reſpecting this matter, ſuch laws as they think proper.

"VII. All and every the ſubjects, inhabitants of the kingdom of Sweden, as well as thoſe of the United States, ſhall be permitted to navigate with their veſſels in all ſafety and freedom, and without any regard to thoſe to whom the merchandizes and cargoes may belong, from any port whatever, and the ſubjects and inhabitants of the two ſtates ſhall likewiſe be permitted to ſail and trade with their veſſels, and with the ſame liberty and ſafety to frequent the places, ports and havens of powers, enemies to both or either of the two contracting parties, without

A. D. 1783 being in any wiſe moleſted or troubled, and to carry on a commerce, not only directly from the ports of an enemy to a neutral port, but even from one port to another port of an enemy, whether it be under the juriſdiction of the ſame, or of different Princes. And as it is acknowledged by this treaty with reſpect to ſhips and merchandiſes, that free ſhips ſhall make the merchandizes free, and that every thing which ſhall be on board of ſhips belonging to ſubjects of the one or the other of the contracting parties, ſhall be conſidered as free, even though the cargo, or a part of it, ſhould belong to the enemies of one or both; it is, nevertheleſs, provided, that contraband goods ſhall always be excepted; which being intercepted, ſhall be proceeded againſt according to the ſpirit of the following articles. It is likewiſe agreed, that the ſame liberty be extended to perſons who may be on board of a free ſhip, with this effect, that although they be enemies to both or either of the parties, they ſhall not be taken out of the free ſhip, unleſs they are ſoldiers in the actual ſervice of the ſaid enemies.

" VIII. This liberty of navigation and commerce ſhall extend to all kinds of merchandiſes, except thoſe only which are expreſſed in the following articles, and are diſtinguiſhed by the name of contraband goods.

" IX. Under the name of contraband or prohibited goods, ſhall be comprehended arms, guns, cannon balls, arquebuſes, muſquets, bombs, petards, granadoes, ſauciſſes, pitch, balls, carriages for ordnance, muſquet-reſts, bandoliers, cannon powder, matches, ſaltpetre, ſulphur, bullets, pikes, ſabres, ſwords, morions, helmets, cutlaſſes, halberts, javelins, piſtols, holſters, bayonets, belts, horſes with their harneſs, and all other like kinds of arms and inſtruments of war for the uſe of troops.

" X. Theſe which follow ſhall not be reckoned in the number of prohibited goods; that is to ſay, all ſorts of clothes, and all other manufactures of wool, flax, ſilk, cotton, or any other materials, all kinds of wearing apparel, together with the things of which they are commonly made; gold and ſilver coined or uncoined, braſs, iron, lead, copper, latten, coals, wheat, barley, and all ſorts of corn or pulſe, tobacco, all kinds of ſpices, ſalted or ſmoaked fiſh, ſalted fiſh, cheeſe, butter, beer, oil, wines, ſugar, all ſorts of ſalt, and proviſions which ſerve for the nouriſhment and ſubſiſtence of man; all kinds of cotton, hemp, flax, tar, pitch, ropes, cables, ſail cloth, anchors, and any part of anchors, ſhip maſts, planks, boards, beams, and all ſorts of trees, and other things proper for building or repairing ſhips; nor ſhall any goods be conſidered as contraband, which have not been worked into the form of any inſtrument or thing for the purpoſe of war, by ſea or by land, much leſs ſuch as have been prepared or wrought up for any other uſe. All which ſhall be reckoned free goods, as likewiſe all others which are not comprehended and particularly mentioned in the foregoing articles; ſo that they ſhall not, by any pretended interpretation, be comprehended among prohibited or contraband goods; on the contrary, they may be freely tranſported by the ſubjects of the King and the United States, even to places belonging to an enemy, ſuch places only excepted as are beſieged, blocked, or inveſted; and thoſe places only ſhall be conſidered as ſuch which are nearly ſurrounded by one of the belligerent powers.

" XI. In order to avoid and prevent, on both ſides, all diſputes and diſcord, it is agreed, that in caſe one of the parties ſhall be engaged in a war, the ſhips and veſſels belonging to the ſubjects or inhabitants of the other, ſhall be furniſhed with ſea-letters or paſſports, expreſſing the name, property, and port of the veſſel, and alſo the name and place of abode of the maſter or commander of the ſaid veſſel, in order that it may thereby appear, that the ſaid veſſel really and truly belongs to the ſubjects of the one or the other party. Theſe paſſports, which ſhall

A. D. 1783 be drawn up in due and good form, ſhall be renewed every time the veſſel returns home in the courſe of the year. It is alſo agreed, that the ſaid veſſels, when loaded, ſhall alſo be provided not only with ſea-letters, but alſo with certificates, containing a particular account of the cargo, the place from which the veſſel ſailed, and that of her deſtination, in order that it may be known whether they carry any of the prohibited or contraband merchandizes mentioned in the ninth article of the preſent treaty; which certificates ſhall be made out by the officers of the place from which the veſſel ſhall depart.

" XII. Although the veſſels of the one and the other party may navigate freely, and with all ſafety, as is explained in the ſeventh article, they ſhall, nevertheleſs, be bound at all times, when required, to exhibit, as well on the high ſeas as in port, their paſſports and certificates above-mentioned: and, not having contraband merchandize on board for an enemy's port, they may freely, and without hinderance, purſue their voyage to the place of their deſtination. Nevertheleſs, the exhibition of the papers ſhall not be demanded of merchant ſhips under the convoy of veſſels of war, but credit ſhall be given to the word of the officer commanding the convoy.

" XIII. If, on producing the ſaid certificates, it be diſcovered that the veſſel carries ſome of the goods which are declared to be prohibited or contraband, and which are conſigned to an enemy's port, it ſhall not, however, be lawful to break up the hatches of ſuch ſhips, nor to open any cheſt, coffers, packs, caſks, or veſſels, nor to remove or diſplace the ſmalleſt part of the merchandizes, until the cargo has been landed in the preſence of officers appointed for the purpoſe, and until an inventory thereof has been taken; nor ſhall it be lawful to ſell, exchange, or alienate the cargo, or any part thereof, until legal proceſs ſhall have been had againſt the prohibited merchandizes, and ſentence ſhall have paſſed, declaring them liable to confiſcation; ſaving, nevertheleſs, as well the ſhips themſelves, as the other merchandizes which ſhall have been found therein, which, by virtue of this preſent treaty, are to be eſteemed free, and which are not to be detained on pretence of their having been loaded with prohibited merchandize, and much leſs confiſcated as lawful prize. And in caſe the contraband merchandize be only a part of the cargo, and the maſter of the veſſel agrees, conſents, and offers to deliver them to the veſſel that has diſcovered them, in that caſe, the latter, after receiving the merchandizes which are good prize, ſhall immediately let the veſſel go, and ſhall not, by any means, hinder her from purſuing her voyage to the place of her deſtination. When a veſſel is taken and brought into any of the ports of the contracting parties, if, upon examination, ſhe be found to be loaded only with merchandize declared to be free, the owner, or he who has made the prize, ſhall be bound to pay all coſts and damages to the maſter of the veſſel unjuſtly detained.

" XIV. It is likewiſe agreed, that whatever ſhall be found to be laden by the ſubjects of either of the two contracting parties on a ſhip belonging to the enemies of the other party, the whole effects, although not of the number of thoſe declared contraband, ſhall be confiſcated as if they belonged to the enemy; excepting, nevertheleſs, ſuch goods and merchandizes as were put on board before the declaration of war, and even ſix months after the declaration, after which term none ſhall be preſumed to be ignorant of it, which merchandizes ſhall not, in any manner, be ſubject to confiſcation, but ſhall be faithfully and ſpecifically delivered to the owners who ſhall claim, or cauſe them to be claimed, before confiſcation and ſale, as alſo their proceeds, if the claim be made within eight months, and could not be made ſooner, after the ſale, which is to be made public: provided, nevertheleſs, that if the ſaid merchandizes be con-

A. D. 1783 traband, it ſhall not be, in any wiſe, lawful to carry them afterwards to a port belonging to the enemy.

“ XV. And that more effectual care may be taken for the ſecurity of the two contracting parties, that they ſuffer no prejudice by the men of war of the other party, or by privateers, all captains and commanders of ſhips of his Swediſh Majeſty, and of the United States, and all their ſubjects, ſhall be forbidden to do any injury or damage to thoſe of the other party; and if they act to the contrary, having been found guilty on their examination by their proper judges, they ſhall be bound to make ſatisfaction for all damages, and the intereſt thereof, and to make them good, under pain and obligation of their perſons and goods.

“ XVI. For this cauſe, every individual who is deſirous of fitting out a privateer, ſhall, before he receives letters-patent or ſpecial commiſſion, be obliged to give bond, with ſufficient ſureties, before a competent judge, for a ſufficient ſum to anſwer all damages and wrongs which the owner of the privateer, his officers, or others in his employ may commit during the cruize, contrary to the tenor of this treaty, and contrary to the edicts publiſhed by either party, whether by the King of Sweden or by the United States, in virtue of this ſame treaty, and alſo under penalty of having the ſaid letters-patent and ſpecial commiſſion revoked and made void.

“ XVII. One of the contracting parties being at war, and the other remaining neuter, if it ſhould ſo happen that a merchant ſhip of the neutral power be taken by the enemy of the other party, and be afterwards retaken by a ſhip of war or privateer of the power at war; alſo ſhips and merchandize, of what nature ſoever they may be, when recovered from a pirate or ſea-rover, ſhall be brought into a port of one of the two powers, and ſhall be committed in the cuſtody of the officers of the ſaid port, that they may be reſtored entire to the true proprietor, as ſoon as he ſhall have produced full proof of the property. Merchants, maſters, and owners of the ſhips, ſeamen, people of all ſorts, ſhips, and veſſels, and, in general, all merchandizes and effects of one of the allies or their ſubjects, ſhall not be ſubject to embargo, nor detained in any of the countries, territories, iſlands, cities, towns, ports, rivers, or domains whatever of the other ally, on account of any military expedition, or any public or private purpoſe whatever, by ſeizure, by force, or by any ſuch manner; much leſs ſhall it be lawful for the ſubjects of one of the parties to ſeize or take any thing by force from the ſubjects of the other party without the conſent of the owner. This, however, is not underſtood to comprehend ſeizures, detentions, and arreſts, made by order and by the authority of juſtice, and according to the ordinary courſe for debts or faults of the ſubject, for which proceſs ſhall be had in the way of right, according to the forms of juſtice.

“ XVIII. If it ſhould happen that the two contracting parties ſhould be engaged in a war at the ſame time with a common enemy, the following points ſhall be obſerved on both ſides:

“ 1. If the ſhips of one of the two nations retaken by the privateers of the other, have not been in the power of the enemy more than twenty-four hours, they ſhall be reſtored to the original owner, on payment of one-third of the value of the ſhip and cargo. If, on the contrary the veſſel retaken has been more than twenty-four hours in the power of the enemy, it ſhall belong wholly to him who has retaken it.

“ 2. In caſe, during the interval of twenty-four hours, a veſſel be retaken by a man of war of either of the two parties, it ſhall be reſtored to the original owner, on payment of a thirtieth part of the value of the veſſel and cargo, and a tenth part, if it has been retaken after the twenty-four hours; which ſums ſhall be diſtributed as a gratification among the crew of the man of war that ſhall have made the re-capture.

A. D. 1783 " 3. The prize made in manner above-mentioned, ſhall be reſtored to the owners, after proof made of the property, upon giving ſecurity for the part coming to him who has recovered the veſſel from the hands of the enemy.

" 4. The men of war and privateers of the two nations, ſhall reciprocally be admitted with their prizes into each others ports; but the prizes ſhall not be unloaded or ſold there, until the legality of a prize made by the Swediſh ſhips ſhall have been determined according to the laws and regulation seſtabliſhed in Sweden, as alſo that of the prizes made by the American veſſels ſhall have been determined according to the laws and regulations eſtabliſhed by the United States of America.

" 5. Moreover, the King of Sweden and the United States of America, ſhall be at liberty to make ſuch regulations as they ſhall judge neceſſary reſpecting the conduct which their men of war and privateers reſpectively ſhall be bound to obſerve with regard to veſſels which they ſhall take and carry into the ports of the two powers.

" XIX. The ſhips of war of his Swediſh Majeſty, and thoſe of the United States, and alſo thoſe which their ſubjects ſhall have armed for war, may with all freedom conduct their prizes which they ſhall have made from their enemies, into the ports which are open in time of war to other friendly nations; and the ſaid prizes, upon entering the ſaid ports, ſhall not be ſubject to arreſt or ſeizure, nor ſhall the officers of the places take cognizance of the validity of the ſaid prizes, which may depart and be conducted freely, and with all liberty, to the places pointed out in their commiſſions, which the captains of the ſaid veſſels ſhall be obliged to ſhew.

" XX. In caſe any veſſel belonging to either of the two ſtates, or to their ſubjects, ſhall be ſtranded, ſhipwrecked, or ſuffer any other damage on the coaſts, or under the dominion of either of the parties, all aid and aſſiſtance ſhall be given to the perſons ſhipwrecked, or who may be in danger thereof, and paſſports ſhall be granted to them, to ſecure their return to their own country. The ſhips and merchandizes wrecked, or their proceeds, if the effects have been ſold, being claimed in a year and a day by the owners or their attorney, ſhall be reſtored, on their paying the coſts of ſalvage, conformable to the laws and cuſtoms of the two nations.

" XXI. When the ſubjects and inhabitants of the two parties, with their veſſels, whether they be public, and equipped for war, or private, employed in commerce, ſhall be forced by tempeſt, by purſuit of privateers and of enemies, or by any other urgent neceſſity, to retire into and enter any of the rivers, bays, roads, or ports of either of the two parties, they ſhall be received and treated with all humanity and politeneſs, and they ſhall enjoy all friendſhip, protection, and aſſiſtance, and they ſhall be at liberty to ſupply themſelves with refreſhments, proviſions, and every thing neceſſary for their ſuſtenance, for the repair of their veſſels, and for continuing their voyage; provided always, that they pay a reaſonable price: and they ſhall not, in any manner, be detained or hindered from ſailing out of the ſaid ports or roads, but they may retire and depart when, and as they pleaſe, without any obſtacle or hinderance.

" XXII. In order to favour commerce on both ſides as much as poſſible, it is agreed, that in caſe a war ſhould break out between the ſaid two nations, (which, God forbid!) the term of nine months after the declaration of war, ſhall be allowed to the merchants and ſubjects reſpectively on one ſide and the other, in order that they may withdraw with their effects and moveables, which they ſhall be at liberty to carry off or ſell where they pleaſe, without the leaſt obſtacle; nor ſhall any ſeize their effects, and much leſs their perſons, during the ſaid nine months; but, on the contrary, paſſports which ſhall be valid for a time neceſſary for their return, ſhall be given them for their veſſels and the effects which they ſhall be willing to carry with them: and if any thing is taken from them, or if any injury is done to them by one of the parties, their people and ſubjects, during the term above deſcribed, full and entire ſatisfaction ſhall be made to them on that account. The above-mentioned paſſports ſhall alſo ſerve as a ſafe-conduct againſt all inſults or prizes which privateers may attempt againſt their perſons and effects.

" XXIII. No ſubject of the King of Sweden ſhall take a commiſſion or letters of marque for arming any veſſel to act as a privateer againſt the United States of America, or any of them, or againſt the ſubjects, people, or inhabitants of the ſaid United States, or any of them, or againſt the property of the inhabitants of the ſaid States, from any prince or ſtate whatever, with whom the ſaid United States ſhall be at war. Nor ſhall any citizen, ſubject, or inhabitant of the ſaid United States, or any of them, apply for, or take any commiſſion or letters of marque for arming any veſſel to cruize againſt the ſubjects of his Swediſh Majeſty, or any of them, or their property, from any prince or ſtate whatever, with whom his ſaid Majeſty ſhall be at war. And if any perſon of either nation ſhall take ſuch commiſſion or letters of marque, he ſhall be puniſhed as a pirate.

" XXIV. The veſſels of the ſubjects of either of the parties coming upon any of the coaſts belonging to the other, but not willing to enter into port, or being entered into port, and not willing to unload their cargoes, or to break bulk, ſhall not be obliged to do it; but, on the contrary, ſhall enjoy all the franchiſes and exemptions which are granted by the rules ſubſiſting with reſpect to that object.

" XXV. When a veſſel belonging to the ſubjects and inhabitants of either of the parties, ſailing on the high ſea, ſhall be met by a ſhip of war or privateer of the other, the ſaid ſhip of war and privateer, to avoid all diſorder, ſhall remain out of cannon-ſhot, but may always ſend their boat to the merchant ſhip, and cauſe two or three men to go on board of her, to whom the maſter or commander of the ſaid veſſel ſhall exhibit his paſſport, ſtating the property of the veſſel, and when the ſaid veſſel ſhall have exhibited her paſſport, ſhe ſhall be at liberty to continue her voyage, and it ſhall not be lawful to moleſt or ſearch her in any manner, or to give her chace, or force her to quit her intended courſe.

" XXVI. The two contracting parties grant mutually the liberty of having each in the ports of the other, conſuls, vice-conſuls, agents, and commiſſaries, whoſe functions ſhall be regulated by a particular agreement.

" XXVII. The preſent treaty ſhall be ratified on both ſides, and the ratifications ſhall be exchanged in the ſpace of eight months, or ſooner, if poſſible, counting from the day of the ſignature.

" In faith whereof, the reſpective plenipotentiaries have ſigned the above articles, and have thereunto affixed their ſeals.

" Done at Paris, the 3d day of April, in the year of our Lord 1783.

(Signed)

" (L. S.) GUSTAV. PHILIP COMTE DE CREUTZ.

" (L. S.) B. FRANKLIN.

SEPARATE ARTICLE.

"'The King of Sweden and the United States of North America agree, that the preſent treaty ſhall have its full effect for the ſpace of fifteen years, counting from the day of the ratification; and the two contracting parties reſerve to themſelves the liberty of renewing it at the end of that term.

" Done at Paris, the 3d day of April, in the year of our Lord 1783.

(Signed) " (L. S.) GUSTAV. PHILIP COMTE DE CREUTZ.
" (L. S.) B. FRANKLIN.

SEPARATE ARTICLES.

Article I. His Swediſh Majeſty ſhall uſe all the means in his power to protect and defend the veſſels and effects belonging to citizens or inhabitants of the United States of North America, and every one of them which ſhall be in the ports, havens, roads, or in the ſeas near the countries, iſlands, cities, and towns of his ſaid Majeſty, and ſhall uſe his utmoſt endeavours to recover and reſtore to the right owner, all ſuch veſſels and effects which ſhall be taken from them within his juriſdiction.

" II. In like manner, the United States of North America ſhall protect and defend the veſſels and effects belonging to the ſubjects of his Swediſh Majeſty, which ſhall be in the ports, havens, or roads, or on the ſeas near to the countries, iſlands, cities, and towns of the ſaid States, and ſhall uſe their utmoſt efforts to recover and reſtore to the right owner, all ſuch veſſels and effects which ſhall be taken from them within their juriſdiction.

" III. If, in any future war at ſea, the contracting powers reſolve to remain neuter, and, as ſuch, to obſerve the ſtricteſt neutrality, then it is agreed, that if the merchant ſhips of either party ſhould happen to be in a part of the ſea where the ſhips of war of the ſaid nation are not ſtationed, or if they are met on the high ſea, without being able to have recourſe to their own convoys, in that caſe, the commander of the ſhips of war of the other party, if required, ſhall, in good faith and ſincerity, give them all neceſſary aſſiſtance; and, in ſuch caſe, the ſhips of war and frigates of either of the powers, ſhall protect and ſupport the merchant ſhips of the other: provided, nevertheleſs, that the ſhips claiming aſſiſtance are not engaged in any illicit commerce, contrary to the principles of the neutrality.

" IV. It is agreed and concluded, that all merchants, captains of merchant ſhips, or other ſubjects of his Swediſh Majeſty, ſhall have full liberty, in all places under the dominion or juriſdiction of the United States of America, to manage their own affairs, and to employ in the management of them whomſoever they pleaſe; and they ſhall not be obliged to make uſe of any interpreter or broker, nor to pay them any reward unleſs they make uſe of them.— Moreover, the maſters of the ſhips ſhall not be obliged, in loading or unloading their veſſels, to employ labourers appointed by public authority for that purpoſe; but they ſhall be at full liberty themſelves to load or unload their veſſels, or employ in loading or unloading them whomſoever they think proper, without paying reward, under the title of ſalary, to any other perſon whatever: and they ſhall not be obliged to turn over any kind of merchandizes to other veſſels, nor to receive them on board their own, nor to wait for their lading longer than they pleaſe; and all and every of the citizens, people, and inhabitants of the United States of America, ſhall reciprocally have and enjoy the ſame privileges and liberties in all places under the juriſdiction of the ſaid realm.

" V. It is agreed, that when merchandizes ſhall have been put on board the ſhips or veſſels of either of the contracting parties, they ſhall not be ſubjected to any examination; but all

1783 all examination and ſearch muſt be before lading, and the prohibited merchandizes muſt be ſtopped on the ſpot before they are embarked, unleſs there is full evidence or proof of fraudulent practice on the part of the owner of the ſhip, or of him who has the command of her: in which caſe, only he ſhall be reſponſible and ſubject to the laws of the country in which he may be. In all other caſes, neither the ſubjects of either of the contracting parties, who ſhall be with their veſſels in the ports of the other, nor their merchandizes, ſhall be ſeized or moleſted on account of contraband goods which they ſhall have wanted to take on board, nor ſhall any kind of embargo be laid on their ſhips, ſubjects, or citizens of the ſtate, whoſe merchandizes are declared contraband, or the exportation of which is forbidden, thoſe only who ſhall have ſold, or intended to ſell or alienate ſuch merchandizes, being liable to puniſhment for ſuch contravention.

" Done at Paris, the 3d day of April, in the year of our Lord 1783.

(Signed) " (L. S.) GUSTAV. PHILIP COMTE DE CREUTZ.
" (L. S.) B. FRANKLIN."

The following definitive treaties between his Britannic Majeſty and the reſpective powers therein named, were ſigned at Verſailles and Paris on the 3d of September in this year:—

The definitive Treaty of Peace and Friendſhip between his Britannic Majeſty and the Moſt Chriſtian King.

" Article I. There ſhall be a Chriſtian, univerſal, and perpetual peace, as well by ſea as by land, and a ſincere and conſtant friendſhip ſhall be re-eſtabliſhed between their Britannic and Moſt Chriſtian Majeſties, and between their heirs and ſucceſſors, kingdoms, dominions, provinces, countries, ſubjects, and vaſſals, of what quality and condition ſoever they be, without exception either of places or perſons; ſo that the high contracting parties ſhall give the greateſt attention to the maintaining between themſelves, and their ſaid dominions and ſubjects, this reciprocal friendſhip and intercourſe, without permitting hereafter, on either part, any kind of hoſtilities to be committed, either by ſea or by land, for any cauſe, or under any pretence whatſoever: and they ſhall carefully avoid, for the future, every thing which might prejudice the union happily re-eſtabliſhed; endeavouring, on the contrary, to procure reciprocally for each other, on every occaſion, whatever may contribute to their mutual glory, intereſts, or advantage, without giving any aſſiſtance or protection, directly or indirectly, to thoſe who would do any injury to either of the high contracting parties. There ſhall be a general oblivion and amneſty of every thing which may have been done or committed before or ſince the commencement of the war which is juſt ended.

" II. The treaties of Weſtphalia, of 1648; the treaties of Nimeguen, of 1678 and 1679; of Ryſwick, of 1697; thoſe of peace and commerce of Utrecht, of 1713; of Baden, of 1714; of the triple alliance of the Hague, of 1717; that of the quadruple alliance of London, of 1718; the treaty of peace of Vienna, of 1738; the definitive treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, of 1748; and that of Paris, of 1763, ſerve as a baſis and foundation to the peace, and to the preſent treaty; and, for this purpoſe, they are all renewed and confirmed in the beſt form, as well as all the treaties in general which ſubſiſted between the high contracting parties before the war, as if they were herein inſerted word for word; ſo that they are to be exactly obſerved, for the future, in their full tenor, and religiouſly executed by both parties, in all the points which ſhall not be derogated from by the preſent treaty of peace.

" III. All the priſoners taken on either ſide, as well by land as by ſea, and the hoſtages carried away or given during the war, and to this day, ſhall be reſtored, without ranſom, in

A. D. 1783 ſix weeks, at lateſt, to be computed from the day of the exchange of the ratifications of the preſent treaty; each crown reſpectively diſcharging the advances which ſhall have been made for the ſubſiſtence and maintenance of their priſoners by the ſovereign of the country where they ſhall have been detained, according to the receipts and atteſted accounts, and other authentic vouchers, which ſhall be furniſhed on each ſide: and ſureties ſhall be reciprocally given for the payment of the debts which the priſoners may have contracted in the countries where they may have been detained, until their entire releaſe. And all ſhips, as well men of war as merchant ſhips, which may have been taken ſince the expiration of the terms agreed upon for the ceſſation of hoſtilities by ſea, ſhall likewiſe be reſtored, *bonâ fide*, with all their crews and cargoes. And the execution of this article ſhall be proceeded upon immediately after the exchange of the ratifications of this treaty.

" IV. His Majeſty the King of Great Britain is maintained in his right to the iſland of Newfoundland, and to the adjacent iſlands, as the whole were aſſured to him by the thirteenth article of the treaty of Utrecht; excepting the iſlands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, which are ceded in full right by the preſent treaty to his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty.

" V. His Majeſty the Moſt Chriſtian King, in order to prevent the quarrels which have hitherto ariſen between the two nations of England and France, conſented to renounce the right of fiſhing, which belongs to him in virtue of the aforeſaid article of the treaty of Utrecht, from Cape Bonaviſta to Cape St. John, ſituated on the eaſtern coaſt of Newfoundland, in 50 degrees north latitude; and his Majeſty the King of Great Britain conſents, on his part, that the fiſhery aſſigned to the ſubjects of his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, beginning at the ſaid Cape St. John, paſſing to the north, and deſcending by the weſtern coaſt of the iſland of Newfoundland, ſhall extend to the place called Cape Ray, ſituated in 47 degrees 50 minutes north latitude. The French fiſhermen ſhall enjoy the fiſhery which is aſſigned to them by the preſent article, as they had the right to enjoy that which was aſſigned to them by the treaty of Utrecht.

" VI. With regard to the fiſhery in the Gulf of St. Laurence, the French ſhall continue to exerciſe it conformably to the fifth article of the treaty of Paris.

" VII. The King of Great Britain reſtores to France the iſland of St. Lucia, in the condition it was in when it was conquered by the Britiſh arms: and his Britannic Majeſty cedes and guaranties to his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty the iſland of Tobago. The Proteſtant inhabitants of the ſaid iſland, as well as thoſe of the ſame religion who have ſettled at St. Lucia whilſt that iſland was occupied by the Britiſh arms, ſhall not be moleſted in the exerciſe of their worſhip: and the Britiſh inhabitants, or others who may have been ſubjects of the King of Great Britain in the aforeſaid iſlands, ſhall retain their poſſeſſions upon the ſame titles and conditions by which they have acquired them; or elſe they may retire in full ſecurity and liberty where they ſhall think fit, and ſhall have the power of ſelling their eſtates, provided it be to ſubjects of his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, and of removing their effects, as well as their perſons, without being reſtrained in their emigration, under any pretence whatſoever, except on account of debts, or of criminal proſecutions. The term limited for this emigration, is fixed to the ſpace of eighteen months, to be computed from the day of the exchange of the ratifications of the preſent treaty. And for the better ſecuring the poſſeſſions of the inhabitants of the aforeſaid iſland of Tobago, the Moſt Chriſtian King ſhall iſſue letters-patent, containing an abolition of the *Droit D'Aubaine* in the ſaid iſland.

" VIII. The

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"VIII. The Moſt Chriſtian King reſtores to Great Britain the iſlands of Grenada and the Grenadines, St. Vincent's, Domiuica, St. Chriſtopher's, Nevis, and Montſerrat; and the fortreſſes of theſe iſlands ſhall be delivered up in the condition they were in when the conqueſt of them was made. The ſame ſtipulations inſerted in the preceding article, ſhall take place in favour of the French ſubjects, with reſpect to the iſlands enumerated in the preſent article.

"IX. The King of Great Britain cedes, in full right, and guaranties to his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, the river Senegal and its dependencies, with the forts of St. Louis, Podor, Galam, Arguin, and Portendic; and his Britannic Majeſty reſtores to France the iſland of Goree, which ſhall be delivered up in the condition it was in when the conqueſt of it was made.

"X. The Moſt Chriſtian King, on his part, guaranties to the King of Great Britain the poſſeſſion of Fort James, and of the river Gambia.

"XI. For preventing all diſcuſſion in that part of the world, the two high contracting parties ſhall, within three months after the exchange of the ratifications of the preſent treaty, name commiſſioners, who ſhall be charged with the ſettling and fixing of the boundaries of the reſpective poſſeſſions. As to the gum trade, the Engliſh ſhall have the liberty of carrying it on from the mouth of the river St. John, to the bay and fort of Portendic incluſively: provided that they ſhall not form any permanent ſettlement, of what nature ſoever, in the ſaid river St. John, upon the coaſt, or in the bay of Portendic.

"XII. As to the reſidue of the coaſt of Africa, the Engliſh and French ſubjects ſhall continue to reſort thereto according to the uſage which has hitherto prevailed.

"XIII. The King of Great Britain reſtores to his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty all the ſettlements which belonged at the beginning of the preſent war upon the coaſt of Orixa and in Bengal, with liberty to ſurround Chandernagore with a ditch, for carrying off the waters: and his Britannic Majeſty engages to take ſuch meaſures as ſhall be in his power for ſecuring to the ſubjects of France in that part of India, as well as on the coaſts of Orixa, Coromandel, and Malabar, a ſafe, free, and independent trade, ſuch as was carried on by the French Eaſt India Company, whether they exerciſe it individually, or united in a company.

"XIV. Pondicherry ſhall be, in like manner, delivered up and guarantied to France, as alſo Karical: and his Britannic Majeſty ſhall procure, for an additional dependency to Pondicherry, the two diſtricts of Valanour and Bahour; and to Karical, the four Magans bordering thereupon.

"XV. France ſhall re-enter into the poſſeſſion of Mahe, as well as of its factory at Surat; and the French ſhall carry on their trade in this part of India conformable to the principles eſtabliſhed in the thirteenth article of this treaty.

"XVI. Orders having been ſent to India by the high contracting parties, in purſuance of the ſixteenth article of the preliminaries, it is farther agreed, that if, within the term of four months, the reſpective allies of their Britannic and Moſt Chriſtian Majeſties ſhall not have acceded to the preſent pacification, or concluded a ſeparate accommodation, their ſaid Majeſties ſhall not give them any aſſiſtance, directly or indirectly, againſt the Britiſh or French poſſeſſions, or againſt the ancient poſſeſſions of their reſpective allies, ſuch as they were in the year 1776.

"XVII. The King of Great Britain, being deſirous to give his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty a ſincere proof of reconciliation and friendſhip, and to contribute to render ſolid the peace re-eſtabliſhed

A.D. 1783 eſtabliſhed between their ſaid Majeſties, conſents to the abrogation and ſuppreſſion of all the articles relative to Dunkirk, from the treaty of peace concluded at Utrecht in 1713, incluſive, to this day.

“ XVIII. Immediately after the exchange of the ratifications, the two high contracting parties ſhall name commiſſaries to treat concerning new arrangements of commerce between the two nations, on the baſis of reciprocity and mutual convenience; which arrangements ſhall be ſettled and concluded within the ſpace of two years, to be computed from the 1ſt of January, in the year 1784.

“ XIX. All the countries and territories which may have been, or which may be conquered in any part of the world whatſoever, by the arms of his Britannic Majeſty, as well as by thoſe of his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, which are not included in the preſent treaty, neither under the head of ceſſions, nor under the head of reſtitutions, ſhall be reſtored without difficulty, and without requiring any compenſation.

“ XX. As it is neceſſary to appoint a certain period for the reſtitutions and evacuations to be made by each of the high contracting parties, it is agreed, that the King of Great Britain ſhall cauſe to be evacuated the iſlands of St. Pierre and Miquelon three months after the ratification of the preſent treaty, or ſooner if it can be done; St. Lucia, one of the Carribbee iſlands, and Goree, in Africa, three months after the ratification of the preſent treaty, or ſooner if it can be done. The King of Great Britain ſhall, in like manner, at the end of three months after the ratification of the preſent treaty, or ſooner if it can be done, enter again into the poſſeſſion of the iſlands of Grenada, the Grenadines, St. Vincent, Dominica, St. Chriſtopher, Nevis and Montſerrat. France ſhall be put in poſſeſſion of the towns and factories which are reſtored to her in the Eaſt Indies, and of the territories which are procured for her to ſerve as additional dependencies to Pondicherry and to Karical, ſix months after the ratification of the preſent treaty, or ſooner if it can be done. France ſhall deliver up, at the end of the like term of ſix months, the towns and territories which her arms may have taken from the Engliſh, or their allies, in the Eaſt Indies. In conſequence whereof, the neceſſary orders ſhall be ſent by each of the high contracting parties, with reciprocal paſſports for the ſhips which ſhall carry them, immediately after the ratification of the preſent treaty.

“ XXI. The deciſion of the prizes and ſeizures made prior to the hoſtilities, ſhall be referred to the reſpective courts of juſtice; ſo that the legality of the ſaid prizes and ſeizures ſhall be decided according to the law of nations, and to treaties, in the courts of juſtice of the nation which ſhall have made the captures or ordered the ſeizures.

“ XXII. For preventing the revival of the lawſuits which have been ended in the iſlands conquered by either of the high contracting parties, it is agreed, that the judgments pronounced in the laſt reſort, and which have acquired the force of matters determined, ſhall be confirmed and executed according to their form and tenor.

“ XXIII. Their Britannic and Moſt Chriſtian Majeſties promiſe to obſerve ſincerely, and *bonâ fide*, all the articles contained and eſtabliſhed in the preſent treaty; and they will not ſuffer the ſame to be infringed, directly or indirectly, by their reſpective ſubjects: and the ſaid high contracting parties guaranty to each other, generally and reciprocally, all the ſtipulations of the preſent treaty.

“ XXIV. The ſolemn ratifications of the preſent treaty, prepared in good and due form, ſhall be exchanged in this city of Verſailles, between the high contracting parties, in the ſpace

A. D. 1783 of a month, or ſooner if poſſible, to be computed from the day of the ſignature of the preſent treaty.

“ In witneſs whereof, we, the under-written ambaſſador extraordinary and miniſters plenipotentiary, have ſigned with our hands, in their names, and in virtue of our reſpective full powers, the preſent definitive treaty, and have cauſed the ſeals of our arms to be affixed thereto.

“ Done at Verſailles, the 3d day of September, 1783.

“ (L. S.) Manchester.
“ (L. S.) Gravier de Vergennes.”

DECLARATION.

“ The King having entirely agreed with his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty upon the articles of the definitive treaty, will ſeek every means which ſhall not only inſure the execution thereof, with his accuſtomed good faith and punctuality, but will beſides give, on his part, all poſſible efficacy to the principles which ſhall prevent even the leaſt foundation of diſpute for the future.

“ To this end, and in order that the fiſhermen of the two nations may not give cauſe for daily quarrels, his Britannic Majeſty will take the moſt poſitive meaſures for preventing his ſubjects from interrupting, in any manner, by their competition, the fiſhery of the French during the temporary exerciſe of it, which is granted to them upon the coaſts of the iſland of Newfoundland; and he will, for this purpoſe, cauſe the fixed ſettlements, which ſhall be formed there, to be removed. His Britannic Majeſty will give orders, that the French fiſhermen be not incommoded in cutting the wood neceſſary for the repair of their ſcaffolds, huts, and fiſhing veſſels.

“ The thirteenth article of the treaty of Utrecht, and the method of carrying on the fiſhery which has at all times been acknowledged, ſhall be the plan upon which the fiſhery ſhall be carried on there; it ſhall not be deviated from by either party; the French fiſhermen building only their ſcaffolds, confining themſelves to the repair of their fiſhing veſſels, and not wintering there; the ſubjects of his Britannic Majeſty, on their part, not moleſting, in any manner, the French fiſhermen during their fiſhing, nor injuring their ſcaffolds during their abſence.

“ The King of Great Britain, in ceding the iſlands of St. Pierre and Miquelon to France, regards them as ceded for the purpoſe of ſerving as a real ſhelter to the French fiſhermen, and in full confidence that theſe poſſeſſions will not become an object of jealouſy between the two nations; and that the fiſhery between the ſaid iſlands and that of Newfoundland, ſhall be limited to the middle of the Channel.

“ With regard to India, Great Britain having granted to France every thing that can aſcertain and confirm the trade which the latter requires to carry on there, his Majeſty relies with confidence on the repeated aſſurances of the court of Verſailles, that the power of ſurrounding Chandernagore with a ditch for carrying off the waters, ſhall not be exerciſed in ſuch a manner as to make it become an object of umbrage.

“ The new ſtate in which commerce may perhaps be found, in all parts of the world, will demand reviſions and explanations of the ſubſiſting treaties; but an entire abrogation of thoſe treaties, in whatever period it might be, would throw commerce into ſuch confuſion as would be of infinite prejudice to it.

“ In ſome of the treaties of this ſort there are not only articles which relate merely to commerce, but many others which enſue reciprocally, to the reſpective ſubjects, privileges, facilities

A. D. 1783 lities for conducting their affairs, perſonal protections, and other advantages, which are not, and which ought not to be of a changeable nature, ſuch as the regulations relating merely to the value of goods and merchandizes, variable from circumſtances of every kind.

" When, therefore, the ſtate of the trade between the two nations ſhall be treated upon, it is requiſite to be underſtood, that the alterations which may be made in the ſubſiſting treaties are to extend only to the arrangements merely commercial; and that the privileges and advantages, mutual and particular, be not only preſerved on each ſide, but even augmented, if it can be done.

" In this view, his Majeſty has conſented to the appointment of commiſſaries on each ſide, who ſhall treat ſolely upon this object.

" In witneſs whereof, we, his Britannic Majeſty's ambaſſador extraordinary and miniſter plenipotentiary, being thereto duly authoriſed, have ſigned the preſent declaration and cauſed the ſeal of our arms to be ſet thereto.

" Given at Verſailles, the third of September, 1783.

" (L. S.) MANCHESTER."

COUNTER-DECLARATION.

" The principles which have guided the King, in the whole courſe of the negociations which preceded the re-eſtabliſhment of peace, muſt have convinced the King of Great Britain, that his Majeſty has had no other deſign than to render it ſolid and laſting, by preventing, as much as poſſible, in the four quarters of the world, every ſubject of diſcuſſion and quarrel. The King of Great Britain undoubtedly places too much confidence in the uprightneſs of his Majeſty's intentions, not to rely upon his conſtant attention to prevent the iſlands of St. Pierre and Miquelon from becoming an object of jealouſy between the two nations.

" As to the fiſhery on the coaſts of Newfoundland, which has been the object of the new arrangements ſettled by the two ſovereigns upon this matter, it is ſufficiently aſcertained by the fifth article of the treaty of peace ſigned this day, and by the declaration likewiſe delivered to day, by his Britannic Majeſty's ambaſſador extraordinary and plenipotentiary; and his Majeſty declares, that he is fully ſatisfied on this head.

" In regard to the fiſhery between the iſland of Newfoundland, and thoſe of St. Pierre and Miquelon, it is not to be carried on by either party, but to the middle of the channel; and his Majeſty will give the moſt poſitive orders, that the French fiſhermen ſhall not go beyond this line. His Majeſty is firmly perſuaded that the King of Great Britain will give like orders to the Engliſh fiſhermen.

" The King's deſire to maintain the peace, comprehends India as well as the other parts of the world; his Britannic Majeſty may therefore be aſſured, that his Majeſty will never permit that an object ſo inoffenſive and ſo harmleſs as the ditch with which Chandernagore is to be ſurrounded, ſhould give any umbrage to the court of London.

" The King, in propoſing new arrangements of commerce, had no other deſign than to remedy, by the rules of reciprocity and mutual convenience, whatever may be defective in the treaty of commerce ſigned at Utrecht, in 1713. The King of Great Britain may judge from thence, that his Majeſty's intention is not in any wiſe to cancel all the ſtipulations in the above-mentioned treaty; he declares, on the contrary, from henceforth, that he is diſpoſed to maintain all the privileges, facilities and advantages expreſſed in that treaty, as far as they ſhall be reciprocal, or compenſated by equivalent advantages. It is to attain this end, deſired

A. D. 1783 on each ſide, that commiſſaries are to be appointed to treat upon the ſtate of the trade between the two nations, and that a conſiderable ſpace of time is to be allowed for compleating their work, His Majeſty hopes that this object will be purſued with the ſame good faith, and the ſame ſpirit of conciliation, which preſided over the diſcuſſion of the other points compriſed in the definitive treaty; and his ſaid Majeſty is firmly perſuaded, that the reſpective commiſſaries will employ the utmoſt diligence for the completion of this important work.

"In witneſs whereof, we, the under-written miniſter plenipotentiary of his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, being thereto duly authoriſed, have ſigned the preſent counter-declaration, and have cauſed the ſeal of our arms to be affixed thereto.

"Given at Verſailles the 3d of September, 1783.

"(L. S.) GRAVIER DE VERGENNES."

The definitive Treaty of Peace and Friendſhip between his Britannic Majeſty and the King of Spain.

"Article I. There ſhall be a Chriſtian, univerſal and perpetual peace, as well by ſea as by land, and a ſincere and conſtant friendſhip ſhall be re-eſtabliſhed, between their Britannic and Catholic Majeſties, and between their heirs and ſucceſſors, kingdoms, dominions, provinces, countries, ſubjects and vaſſals, of what quality or condition ſoever they be, without exception either of places or perſons; ſo that the high contracting parties ſhall give the greateſt attention to the maintaining between themſelves and their ſaid dominions and ſubjects, this reciprocal friendſhip and intercourſe, without permitting hereafter, on either part, any kind of hoſtilities to be committed, either by ſea or by land, for any cauſe or under any pretence whatſoever: and they ſhall carefully avoid, for the future, every thing which might prejudice the union happily re-eſtabliſhed, endeavouring, on the contrary, to procure reciprocally for each other, on every occaſion, whatever may contribute to their mutual glory, intereſts and advantage, without giving any aſſiſtance or protection, directly or indirectly, to thoſe who would do any injury to either of the high contracting parties. There ſhall be a general oblivion and amneſty of every thing which may have been done or committed, before or ſince the commencement of the war which is juſt ended.

"II. The treaties of Weſtphalia of 1648; thoſe of Madrid of 1667 and of 1670; thoſe of peace and of commerce of Utrecht of 1713; that of Baden of 1714; of Madrid of 1715; of Seville of 1729; the definitive treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle of 1748; the treaty of Madrid of 1750; and the definitive treaty of Paris of 1763, ſerve as a baſis and foundation to the peace, and to the preſent treaty; and for this purpoſe, they are all renewed and confirmed, in the beſt form, as well as all the treaties in general which ſubſiſted between the high contracting parties before the war, and particularly all thoſe which are ſpecified and renewed in the aforeſaid definitive treaty of Paris, in the beſt form, and as if they were herein inſerted word for word; ſo that they are to be exactly obſerved for the future in their full tenor, and religiouſly executed, by both parties, in all the points which ſhall not be derogated from by the preſent treaty of peace.

"III. All the priſoners taken on either ſide, as well by land as by ſea, and the hoſtages carried away or given, during the war, and to this day, ſhall be reſtored without ranſom, in ſix weeks at lateſt, to be computed from the day of the exchange of the preſent treaty; each crown reſpectively diſcharging the advances which ſhall have been made for the ſubſiſtence and maintenance of their priſoners, by the ſovereign of the country where they ſhall have been detained,

A. D. 1783 tained, according to the receipts, atteſted accounts, and other authentic vouchers, which ſhall be furniſhed on either ſide; and ſureties ſhall be reciprocally given for the payment of the debts which the priſoners may have contracted in the countries where they may have been detained, until their entire releaſe. And all ſhips, as well men of war as merchant ſhips, which may have been taken ſince the expiration of the terms agreed upon for the ceſſation of hoſtilities by ſea, ſhall likewiſe be reſtored, *bonâ fide*, with all their crews and cargoes. And the execution of this article ſhall be proceeded upon immediately after the exchange of the ratifications of this treaty.

"IV. The King of Great Britain cedes, in full right, to his Catholic Majeſty, the iſland of Minorca. Provided that the ſame ſtipulations inſerted in the following article ſhall take place in favour of the Britiſh ſubjects, with regard to the above-mentioned iſland.

"V. His Britannic Majeſty cedes and guaranties, in full right to his Catholic Majeſty, Eaſt Florida, as alſo Weſt Florida. His Catholic Majeſty agrees that the Britiſh inhabitants, or others who may have been ſubjects of the King of Great Britain in the ſaid countries, may retire in full ſecurity and liberty, where they ſhall think proper, and may ſell their eſtates, and remove their effects, as well as their perſons, without being reſtrained in their emigration, under any pretence whatſoever, except on account of debts or criminal proſecutions; the term limited for this emigration being fixed to the ſpace of eighteen months, to be computed from the day of the exchange of the ratifications of the preſent treaty; but if, from the value of the poſſeſſions of the Engliſh proprietors, they ſhall not be able to diſpoſe of them within the ſaid term, then his Catholic Majeſty ſhall grant them a prolongation proportioned to that end. It is further ſtipulated, that his Britannic Majeſty ſhall have the power of removing from Eaſt Florida all the effects which may belong to him, whether artillery or other matters.

"VI. The intention of the two high contracting parties being to prevent, as much as poſſible, all the cauſes of complaint and miſunderſtanding heretofore occaſioned by the cutting of wood for dying, or logwood; and ſeveral Engliſh ſettlements having been formed and extended under that pretence, upon the Spaniſh continent; it is expreſsly agreed, that his Britannic Majeſty's ſubjects ſhall have the right of cutting, loading and carrying away logwood, in the diſtrict lying between the rivers Wallis or Bellize, and Rio Hondo, taking the courſe of the ſaid two rivers for unalterable boundaries, ſo as that the navigation of them be common to both nations, to wit, by the river Wallis or Bellize, from the ſea, aſcending as far as oppoſite to a lake or inlet which runs into the land, and forms an iſthmus or neck, with another ſmaller inlet, which comes from the ſide of Rio Neuvo, or New River; ſo that the line of ſeparation ſhall paſs ſtrait acroſs the ſaid iſthmus, and meet another lake formed by the water of Rio Neuvo, or New River, at its current. The ſaid line ſhall continue with the courſe of Rio Neuvo, deſcending as far as oppoſite to a river, the ſource of which is marked in the map, between Rio Neuvo and Rio Hondo, and which empties itſelf into Rio Hondo; which river ſhall alſo ſerve as a common boundary as far as its junction with Rio Hondo; and from thence deſcending by Rio Hondo to the ſea, as the whole is marked on the map which the plenipotentiaries of the two crowns have thought proper to make uſe of, for aſcertaining the points agreed upon, to the end that a good correſpondence may reign between the two nations, and that the Engliſh workmen, cutters and labourers may not treſpaſs from an uncertainty of the boundaries. The reſpective commiſſaries ſhall fix upon convenient places, in the territory above marked out, in order that his Britannic Majeſty's ſubjects employed in the felling of logwood, may, without interruption, build therein houſes and magazines neceſſary for themſelves, 1783 ſelves, their families, and their effects; and his Catholic Majeſty aſſures to them the enjoyment of all that is expreſſed in the preſent article; provided that theſe ſtipulations ſhall not be conſidered as derogating in any wiſe from his rights of ſovereignty. Therefore all the Engliſh who may be diſperſed in any other parts, whether on the Spaniſh continent, or in any of the iſlands whatſoever, dependent on the aforeſaid Spaniſh continent, and for whatever reaſon it might be, without exception, ſhall retire within the diſtrict which has been above deſcribed, in the ſpace of eighteen months, to be computed from the exchange of the ratifications; and for this purpoſe orders ſhall be iſſued on the part of his Britannic Majeſty; and on that of his Catholic Majeſty, his governors ſhall be ordered to grant to the Engliſh, diſperſed, every convenience poſſible for their removing to the ſettlement agreed upon by the preſent article, or for retiring wherever they ſhall think proper. It is likewiſe ſtipulated, that if any fortifications ſhould actually have been heretofore erected within the limits marked out, his Britannic Majeſty ſhall cauſe them all to be demoliſhed; and he will order his ſubjects not to build any new ones. The Engliſh inhabitants who ſhall ſettle there for the cutting of logwood, ſhall be permitted to enjoy a free fiſhery for their ſubſiſtence, on the coaſts of the diſtrict above agreed on, or of the iſlands ſituated oppoſite thereto, without being in any wiſe diſturbed on that account; provided they do not eſtabliſh themſelves, in any manner on the ſaid iſlands.

" VII. His Catholic Majeſty ſhall reſtore to Great Britain, the iſlands of Providence, and the Bahamas, without exception, in the ſame condition they were in when they were conquered by the arms of the King of Spain. The ſame ſtipulations inſerted in the fifth article of this treaty ſhall take place in favour of the Spaniſh ſubjects, with regard to the iſlands mentioned in the preſent article.

" VIII. All the countries and territories, which may have been, or which may be conquered in any part of the world whatſoever, by the arms of his Britannic Majeſty, as well as by thoſe of his Catholic Majeſty, which are not included in the preſent treaty, neither under the head of ceſſions, nor under the head of reſtitutions, ſhall be reſtored without difficulty, and without requiring any compenſation.

" IX. Immediately after the exchange of the ratifications, the two high contracting parties ſhall name commiſſaries to treat concerning new arrangements of commerce between the two nations, on the baſis of reciprocity and mutual convenience; which arrangements ſhall be ſettled and concluded within the ſpace of two years, to be computed from the firſt of January, 1784.

" X. As it is neceſſary to appoint a certain period for the reſtitutions and evacuations to be made by each of the high contracting parties, it is agreed, that the King of Great Britain ſhall cauſe Eaſt Florida to be evacuated three months after the ratification of the preſent treaty, or ſooner if it can be done. The King of Great Britain ſhall, in like manner, enter again into poſſeſſion of the iſlands of Providence, and the Bahamas, without exception, in the ſpace of three months after the ratification of the preſent treaty, or ſooner if it can be done. In conſequence whereof, the neceſſary orders ſhall be ſent by each of the high contracting parties, with reciprocal paſſports for the ſhips which ſhall carry them, immediately after the ratification of the preſent treaty.

" XI. Their Britannic and Catholic Majeſties promiſe to obſerve ſincerely, and *bonâ fide*, all the articles contained and eſtabliſhed in the preſent treaty; and they will not ſuffer the ſame to be infringed, directly or indirectly, by their reſpective ſubjects: and the ſaid high contracting

ing parties guaranty to each other, generally and reciprocally, all the ſtipulations of the preſent treaty.

" XII. The ſolemn ratifications of the preſent treaty, prepared in good and due form, ſhall be exchanged in this city of Verſailles, between the high contracting parties, in the ſpace of one month, or ſooner if poſſible, to be computed from the day of the ſignature of the preſent treaty. In witneſs whereof, we, the under-written ambaſſadors extraordinary and miniſters plenipotentiary, have ſigned with our hands, and their names, and by virtue of our reſpective full powers, the preſent definitive treaty, and have cauſed the ſeals of our arms to be affixed thereto.

" Done at Verſailles, the third day of September, 1783.

" (L. S.) LE COMTE D'ARANDA.
" (L. S.) MANCHESTER."

DECLARATION.

" The new ſtate in which commerce may perhaps be found, in all parts of the world, will demand reviſions and explanations of the ſubſiſting treaties; but an entire abrogation of thoſe treaties, in whatever period it might be, would throw commerce into ſuch confuſion as would be of infinite prejudice to it.

" In ſome of the treaties of this ſort there are not only articles which relate merely to commerce, but many others which inſure reciprocally, to the reſpective ſubjects, privileges, facilities for conducting their affairs, perſonal protections, and other advantages, which are not, and which ought not to be of a changeable nature, ſuch as the regulations relating merely to the value of goods and merchandize, variable from circumſtances of every kind.

" When therefore the ſtate of the trade between the two nations ſhall be treated upon, it is requiſite to be underſtood, that the alterations which may be made in the ſubſiſting treaties are to extend only to arrangements merely commercial; and that the privileges and advantages mutual and particular, be not only preſerved on each ſide, but even augmented, if it can be done.

" In this view, his Majeſty has conſented to the appointment of commiſſaries, on each ſide, who ſhall treat ſolely upon this object.

" Done at Verſailles, the third of September, 1783.

" (L. S.) MANCHESTER."

COUNTER-DECLARATION.

" The Catholic King, in propoſing new arrangements of commerce, has had no other deſign than to remedy, by the rules of reciprocity and mutual convenience, whatever may be defective in preceding treaties of commerce. The King of Great Britain may judge from thence, that the intention of his Catholic Majeſty is not in any manner to cancel all the ſtipulations contained in the above-mentioned treaties; he declares, on the contrary, from henceforth, that he is diſpoſed to maintain all the privileges, facilities, and advantages, expreſſed in the old treaties, as far as they ſhall be reciprocal, or compenſated by equivalent advantages. It is to attain this end, deſired on each ſide, that commiſſaries are to be named to treat upon the ſtate of trade between the two nations, and that a conſiderable ſpace of time is to be allowed for compleating their work. His Catholic Majeſty hopes that this object will be purſued with the ſame good faith, and with the ſame ſpirit of conciliation, which have preſided over the diſcuſſion

A. D. 1783 diſcuſſion of all the other points included in the definitive treaty; and his ſaid Majeſty is equally confident, that the reſpective commiſſaries will employ the utmoſt diligence for the completion of this important work.

"Done at Verſailles, the third of September, 1783.

"(L. S.) LE COMTE D'ARANDA."

The definitive Treaty of Peace and Friendſhip between his Britannic Majeſty and the United States of America.

"Article I. His Britannic Majeſty acknowledges the ſaid United States, viz. New Hampſhire, Maſſachuſets Bay, Rhode Iſland and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New York, New Jerſey, Pennſylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia, to be free, ſovereign, and independent ſtates; that he treats with them as ſuch; and for himſelf, his heirs and ſucceſſors, relinquiſhes all claims to the government, propriety, and territorial rights of the ſame, and every part thereof.

"II. And that all diſputes which might ariſe in future on the ſubject of the boundaries of of the ſaid United States may be prevented, it is hereby agreed and declared, that the following are, and ſhall be, their boundaries, viz. from the north-weſt angle of Nova Scotia, to that angle which is formed by a line drawn due north,—from the ſource of St. Croix river to the Highlands, along the ſaid Highlands, which divide thoſe rivers that empty themſelves into the river St. Laurence,—from thoſe which fall into the Atlantic Ocean, to the north weſternmoſt head of Connecticut river,—thence down along the middle of that river, to the 45th degree of north latitude,—from thence by a line due weſt on that latitude, until it ſtrikes the river Iroquois or Cateraquy,—thence along the middle of the ſaid river into the lake Ontario, through the middle of that lake, until it ſtrikes the communication between the ſaid lake and the lake Erie,—thence along the middle of that communication into lake Erie, through the middle of the ſaid lake, until it arrives at the water communication between that lake and Lake Huron,—thence along the middle of the ſaid water communication,—thence through the middle of the ſaid lake to the water communication between that lake and Lake Superior,—thence through Lake Superior, northward of the iſles Royal and Phillipeaux, to the Long Lake,—thence through the middle of the ſaid Long Lake, and the water communication between it and the Lake of the Woods, to the ſaid Lake of the Woods,—thence through the ſaid Lake to the moſt north-weſtern point of it; and from thence, in a due weſt courſe, to the river Miſſiſſippi,—thence by a line to be drawn along the middle of the ſaid river Miſſiſſippi, until it ſhall interſect the northernmoſt part of the 31ſt degree of north latitude.—South, by a line to be drawn due eaſt, from the determination of the line laſt-mentioned, in the latitude of 31 degrees north of the Equator, to the middle of the river Apalachicola, or Catahouche,—thence along the middle thereof, to its junction with the river Flint,—thence ſtrait to the head of St. Mary's River, and thence down along the middle of St Mary's River to the Atlantic Ocean.—Eaſt, by a line to be drawn along the middle of the river St. Croix, from its mouth in the Bay of Fundy, to its ſource; and from its ſource, directly north to the ſaid Highlands, which divide the rivers that fall into the Atlantic Ocean, from thoſe which fall into the river St. Laurence; comprehending all iſlands within 20 leagues of any part of the ſhores of the United States, and lying between lines to be drawn due eaſt from the points where the ſaid boundaries, between Nova Scotia on the one part, and Eaſt Florida on the

A. D. 1783 the other, ſhall reſpectively touch the Bay of Fundy, and the Atlantic Ocean; excepting ſuch iſlands as now are, or heretofore have been within the limits of the ſaid province of Nova Scotia.

" III. It is agreed, that the people of the United States ſhall continue to enjoy, unmoleſted, the right to take fiſh of every kind on the grand bank, and on all the other banks of Newfoundland: alſo in the gulph of St. Lawrence, and at all other places in the ſea where the inhabitants of both countries uſed at any time heretofore to fiſh. And alſo that the inhabitants of the United States ſhall have liberty to take fiſh of every kind on ſuch part of the coaſt of Newfoundland as Britiſh fiſhermen ſhall uſe, (but not to dry or cure the ſame on that iſland) and alſo on the coaſts, bays, and creeks of all other of his Britannic Majeſty's dominions in America; and that the American fiſhermen ſhall have liberty to dry and cure fiſh in any of the unſettled bays, harbours, and creeks of Nova Scotia, Magdalen Iſlands, and Labrador, ſo long as the ſame ſhall remain unſettled; but ſo ſoon as the ſame, or either of them, ſhall be ſettled, it ſhall not be lawful for the ſaid fiſhermen to dry or cure fiſh at ſuch ſettlement without a previous agreement for that purpoſe with the inhabitants, proprietors, or poſſeſſors of the ground.

" IV. It is agreed, that creditors on either ſide ſhall meet with no lawful impediment to the recovery of the full value, in ſterling money, of all *bonâ fide* debts heretofore contracted.

" V. It is agreed, that the Congreſs ſhall earneſtly recommend it to the legiſlatures of the reſpective ſtates, to provide for the reſtitution of all eſtates, rights, and properties, which have been confiſcated, belonging to real Britiſh ſubjects, and alſo of the eſtates, rights and properties of perſons reſident in diſtricts in the poſſeſſion of his Majeſty's arms, and who have not borne arms againſt the ſaid United States: and that perſons of any other deſcription ſhall have free liberty to go to any part or parts of any of the Thirteen United States, and therein to remain twelve months unmoleſted in their endeavours to obtain the reſtitution of ſuch of their eſtates, rights, and properties, as may have been confiſcated: and that Congreſs ſhall alſo earneſtly recommend to the ſeveral ſtates, a reconſideration and reviſion of all acts or laws regarding the premiſes, ſo as to render the ſaid laws or acts perfectly conſiſtent not only with juſtice and equity, but with that ſpirit of conciliation which, on the return of the bleſſings of peace, ſhould univerſally prevail. And that Congreſs ſhall alſo earneſtly recommend to the ſeveral ſtates, that the eſtates, rights, and properties, of ſuch laſt-mentioned perſons ſhall be reſtored to them, they refunding to any perſons who may be now in poſſeſſion of the *bonâ fide* price (where any has been given) which ſuch perſons may have paid on purchaſing any of the ſaid lands, rights, or properties, ſince the confiſcation.

" And it is agreed, that all perſons who have any intereſt in confiſcated lands, either by debts, marriage ſettlements, or otherwiſe, ſhall meet with no lawful impediment in the proſecution of their juſt rights.

" VI. That there ſhall be no future confiſcations made, nor any proſecutions commenced againſt any perſon or perſons, for or by reaſon of the part which he or they may have taken in the preſent war; and that no perſon ſhall, on that account, ſuffer any further loſs or damage either in his perſon, liberty, or property; and that thoſe who may be in confinement on ſuch charges at the time of the ratification of the treaty in America, ſhall be immediately ſet at liberty, and the proſecutions ſo commenced be diſcontinued.

" VII. There ſhall be a firm and perpetual peace between his Britannic Majeſty and the ſaid States, and between the ſubjects of the one and the citizens of the other, wherefore, all hoſtilities, both by ſea and land, ſhall from henceforth ceaſe: all priſoners on both ſides ſhall be ſet at liberty, and his Britannic Majeſty ſhall, with all convenient ſpeed, and without

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1783 cauſing any deſtruction, or carrying away any negroes, or other property of the American inhabitants, withdraw all his armies, garriſons, and fleets, from the ſaid United States, and from every port, place, and harbour within the ſame; leaving in all fortifications the American artillery that may be therein: and ſhall alſo order and cauſe all archives, records, deeds, and papers, belonging to any of the ſaid States, or their citizens, which in the courſe of the war may have fallen into the hands of his officers, to be forthwith reſtored and delivered to the proper ſtates and perſons to whom they belong.

" VIII. The navigation of the river Miſſiſſippi, from its ſource to the ocean, ſhall for ever remain free and open to the ſubjects of Great Britain, and the citizens of the United States.

" IX. In caſe it ſhould ſo happen, that any place or territory belonging to Great Britain, or to the United States, ſhould have been conquered by the arms of either from the other, before the arrival of the ſaid proviſional articles in America, it is agreed, that the ſame ſhall be reſtored without difficulty, and without requiring any compenſation.

" X. The ſolemn ratifications of the preſent treaty, expedited in good and due form, ſhall be exchanged between the contracting parties in the ſpace of ſix months, or ſooner if poſſible, to be computed from the day of the ſignature of the preſent treaty.

" In witneſs whereof, we, the under-ſigned, their miniſters plenipotentiary, have, in their name, and in virtue of our full powers, ſigned with our hands the preſent definitive treaty, and cauſed the ſeals of our arms to be affixed thereto.

" Done at Paris, this third day of September, 1783.

" (L. S.) D. HARTLEY.
" (L. S.) JOHN ADAMS.
" (L. S.) B. FRANKLIN.
" (L. S.) JOHN JAY."

The definitive treaty with the States General of the United Provinces of the Low Countries, was not ſigned till the month of May in the ſucceeding year.

The peace was proclaimed at London on the fifteenth of September, in this year, with all the uſual ſolemnities.

On the eleventh of November the two Houſes of Parliament met for the diſpatch of buſineſs, when the ſpeech from the throne informed them concerning the ſtate of the treaties of peace, and the happy proſpect there was, that the ſeveral parties to thoſe treaties would concur with the King in his inclination to keep the calamities of war at a diſtance. The reaſon of their being called together after ſuch a ſhort receſs was then explained: the ſituation of the Eaſt India Company was repreſented as claiming their utmoſt exertions, and the providing for the ſecurity and increaſe of the revenue, by the ſuppreſſion of the illicit trade, was ſtrongly recommended. The Houſe of Commons was informed, that the reductions which had been made in the naval and military eſtabliſhments were brought as low as prudence would admit, and that it was not doubted but the fortitude which had hitherto ſupported the nation under ſo many difficulties, would make her bear with chearfulneſs the burthens which the preſent exigencies would require, and which were neceſſary for the full ſupport of the national credit.— The ſpeech concluded with recommending temper and moderation in all their deliberations, and with hoping, that, as in many reſpects our ſituation was new, their counſels would provide what that ſituation called for, and that their wiſdom would give permanency to whatever had been found beneficial by the experience of ages.

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A. D. 1783 The affairs of the Eaſt India Company were, at this time, in ſuch a ſituation as to demand ſome immediate as well as effectual regulations, and the preſent adminiſtration were determined to provide them. Mr. Fox, accordingly, on the 18th of November, moved for leave to bring in a bill for veſting the affairs of the Eaſt India Company in the hands of certain commiſſioners, for the benefit of the proprietors and the public.

It was, perhaps, impoſſible for a ſubject of greater dignity and weight to be brought under the inſpection of Parliament: it involved a principal ſource of our commerce and opulence: it was intimately connected with the honour and fair fame of the Britiſh nation, and was pregnant with happineſs or miſery to 30,000,000 of people. The patronage and the wealth of India might alſo be conſidered as a continual ſource of influence and corruption, and if placed without controul, might tend to overturn that balance of the conſtitution, on which our liberties depend.

The bill for veſting the government in commiſſioners, was accompanied with a ſecond bill, the profeſſed object of which was, the precluding all kinds of arbitrary and deſpotic proceedings from the adminiſtration of the territorial poſſeſſions &c.

As theſe two bills embrace ſuch an important object, occaſioned ſuch a national ferment, and met with ſuch an uncommon fate, we ſhall here inſert abſtracts of them.

ABSTRACT of a BILL for veſting the Affairs of the EAST INDIA COMPANY in the Hands of certain Commiſſioners for the Benefit of the Proprietors and the Public.

" Whereas great diſorders have prevailed and do ſtill increaſe in the management of the territorial poſſeſſions, revenues, and commerce of this kingdom in the Eaſt Indies, diminiſhing the proſperity of the natives, and impairing, and threatening with utter ruin, the valuable intereſts of this nation in that country.

" That the government and management of the preſent directors and proprietors be ſuſpended.

" That William Earl Fitzwilliam, the Right Honourable Frederic Montagu, George Lord Viſcount Lewiſham, the Honourable George Auguſtus North, Sir Gilbert Elliot, Bart. Sir Henry Fletcher, Bart. and Robert Gregory, Eſq. be conſtituted Directors, with the ſeveral powers of the former court of directors and general court of proprietors.

" That the above directors immediately enter into poſſeſſion of all lands, tenements, books, records, veſſels, goods, money, and ſecurities, in truſt for the Company.

" That Thomas Cheap, George Cuming, Richard Hall, John Harriſon, Joſeph Sharp, John Michie, John Smith, George Tatem, and James Moffat, Eſquires, proprietors each of them of 2,000l. Company's ſtock at leaſt, be aſſiſtant directors, entirely ſubordinate to the principal directors.

" That any vacancy in the board of directors be filled by his Majeſty, under his ſign manual, within twenty days.

" That any vacancy in the board of aſſiſtant directors, be filled by the majority of proprietors, qualified as formerly, not by ballot, but in an open court.

" That any five of the directors be empowered to remove any of the aſſiſtant directors, entering in their journals their reaſons for the removal.

" That William Earl Fitzwilliam be chairman of the board of directors, and the Right Honourable Frederic Montagu be deputy-chairman, with the reverſion of the chair: future vacancies in theſe offices to be ſupplied by the election of the directors.

1783 "That the chairman, or in his abſence the deputy chairman, have power to ſummon any extraordinary meeting of the board, and to propoſe the buſineſs to be firſt conſidered, with the privilege of a caſting voice; the majority of the directors however being at liberty to adjourn their meetings as they ſhall think proper.

"That the directors vote openly, and in any difference of opinion, except as to the election to offices of a perſon not having before been in the Company's ſervice, enter upon their journals their reaſons for their vote.

"That no perſon concerned in any mercantile manner with the company.

"That no perſon charged with corrupt practice, peculation, or oppreſſion in India, within two years before the time of his nomination, until the directors, or three of them, ſhall have examined into and acquitted him of the charge.

"That no perſon who has been, or ſhall hereafter be, in the Company's ſervice in India, until two years from his return be elapſed, be capable of being a director, or aſſiſtant director.

"That the directors, once in every ſix months, lay before the general court of proprietors an exact ſtate of their accounts.

"That the directors, within twenty days after the commencement of every ſeſſion of Parliament, lay before the commiſſioners of the treaſury, to be ſubmitted to both houſes of Parliament, an accurate ſtate of their accounts and eſtabliſhments.

"That the directors have full powers to remove, or ſuſpend, every perſon from any ſtation, civil or military, in the company's ſervice.

"That every charge of peculation, uſury, receipt of preſents, oppreſſion or breach of orders, tranſmitted to the directors, be examined by them within twenty days, and if they ſhall not think proper to recal, or order a proſecution againſt the perſon ſo charged, each director enter in their journals his reaſons for declining thoſe ſteps.

"That the directors, before they confirm the appointment themſelves, or ſuffer the departure from Great Britain for India of any perſon againſt whom any ſuch charge has been made, make a full examination into the ſubject of the charge, and enter upon their journals their reaſons for not attending to it.

"That in caſe of any difference between the governor-general and council of Bengal, or between any of the preſidents and their councils; or between the government of one ſettlement and the government of another, the directors enter into an examination of the difference within twenty days, and within three months either come to a definitive deciſion, or enter upon their journals their reaſons for not coming to ſuch a deciſion.

"That in caſe of any queſtion ſubmitted to the directors by any of the preſidencies in India, the directors return an anſwer to the queſtion within three months, or enter upon their journals the reaſons of their delay.

"That, in caſe of any breach of treaty, injury, or grievance, committed againſt any Prince in India, complained of, or otherwiſe coming to the knowledge of the directors, the directors enquire into ſuch injury as ſpeedily as may be, begin their examination by conſidering the treaties or orders of the former directors and court of proprietors, and do complete juſtice to ſuch Prince on every material article of complaint, and not upon the whole in groſs.

"That three of the directors form a board.

"That the correſpondence of the directors be ſigned by their ſecretary.

"That the directors and aſſiſtant directors, be incapable of holding any office in the company's ſervice, or any place of profit from the crown during pleaſure.

A. D. 1783 “ That it be lawful for his Majeſty to remove any of the directors or aſſiſtant directors, upon an addreſs from either Houſe of Parliament.

“ That any director hereafter to be appointed by his Majeſty, be not diſqualified from ſitting in the Houſe of Commons.

“ That the aſſiſtant directors receive from the company a clear yearly ſalary of 500l.

“ That this act continue in force for four years.”

Abſtract of a Bill for the better Government of the Territorial Poſſeſſions and Dependencies in India.

“ Whereas great diſorders have prevailed in the government of the Britiſh Eaſt Indies, and the laws and lawful authority of this kingdom, have not been duly obeyed by the ſervants of the Eaſt India Company.

“ That no authority is, or was intended to be granted by an act of the 13th of Geo. III. (Lord North's Eaſt India bill) or by any other act to the governor general and council of Bengal, or any other perſon, exempting them from a ſtrict obedience to the orders of the late court of directors, or the future orders of the commiſſioners, named, inſtead of that court, in an act of this ſeſſion of Parliament.

“ That the orders of the late court of directors be conſidered as rules for the conduct of the Company's ſervants, until notice ſhall be given by the commiſſioners of any alteration or repeal.

“ That the reſtrictions and proviſions of the act 13th Geo. III. were not intended, and are hereby expreſsly declared not to be confined to the forts, factories, and other ſubordinate places in the ſettlement of Fort William, but extend to all ordinances iſſued by the governor general and council of Fort William.

“ That an abſtract of ſuch ordinances be regiſtered and affixed in the Perſian and Hindoſtan languages, in every provincial court in the provinces of Bengal, Bahar and Oriſſa, or in the territory to which they relate.

“ That the powers of the governor general and council, or of any preſident and council, be incapable of being delegated, and that no proceedings in the execution of any ſpecial commiſſion be finally approved, until a full report, accompanied with vouchers, be made to the governor general and council, or preſident and council.

“ That all communications of any native Prince or his agent, or any Britiſh reſident, or ſubordinate ſettlement, or collector of revenue, ſhall be addreſſed to the governor general and council, or preſident and council, and all ſuch communications, however addreſſed, be laid before the council.

“ That the governor general or preſident may adjourn the conſideration of any queſtion in the reſpective councils for the ſpace of ſuch queſtions not to be adjourned oftner than

“ That the governor general and council, or preſident and council, ſhall not exchange any territory, or accept any acquiſition.

“ That the governor general and council do not invade the territory of any independent Prince, until a majority in council, in minutes ſubſcribed by each member compoſing the majority, ſhall declare that ſuch Prince is about to attack the territory of the Company or their dependencies.

“ That

" That the governor general and council, or preſident and council, do not form any alliance for the purpoſe of dividing or ſharing any territory.

" That, the governor general and council, or preſident and council, do not hire out any part of the Company's troops to any independent Prince.

" That the governor general and council, or preſident and council, do not appoint to any office any perſon removed from any office for miſdemeanor.

" That the governor general and council, or preſident and council, or any collector of revenue, or member of any ſubordinate ſettlement, do not let out to hire any farm, or other thing, to any ſervant of any perſon in the civil ſervice of the Company; the profits of all contracts, contrary to this clauſe, to be recoverable from the principal.

" That all monopolies in India be void.

" That no debt or balance exceeding   in conſequence of any advance for any purchaſe, be recoverable after the ſpace of   and no perſon be impriſoned for ſuch debt.

" That, whereas by the act 13th Geo. III. it is enacted, That every illegal preſent be deemed to have been received for the uſe of the Company, and whereas that proviſion has been attended with inconvenience; that every ſuch preſent, if the ſame be not corruptly given, to obtain any place or other object, to which the perſon giving the ſame ſhall not be entitled, be returned, and be recoverable by action.

" That in caſe the perſon giving ſuch preſent, or the Company do not ſue for the ſame within   months, the ſame be recoverable by any perſon for his ſole uſe and benefit.

" That if any perſon be convicted in any of the courts in India of receiving any preſent contrary to the act 13th Geo. III. ſuch perſon ſhall thereupon

" That all lands and tenements, not in the actual occupation of the Company, or by them farmed out, be deemed to be the eſtate and inheritance of the native landholders and families, unleſs diſpoſſeſſed by the judgment of ſome competent court for ſome crime or miſdemeanor, or non-payment of their rent.

" That the rent paid by the landholders immediately before the year   ſhall not be altered or increaſed.

" That the governor general and council may reſtore any landholder diſpoſſeſſed of his territory; ſubject nevertheleſs to ſuch leaſes as ſhall have been made before the   and if the landholder ſhall have quitted his territory upon condition of receiving any penſion, and ſhall prefer ſuch penſion, that the ſame upon no account be diſcontinued.

" That no Princes engaged to keep up a body of troops for the ſervice of the Company, or to pay any body of Engliſh troops, or to pay any tribute for the protection of the Company, be moleſted in the enjoyment of their rights.

" That all perſons be amenable to the commiſſioners, and to all courts of juſtice of competent juriſdiction to try offences committed in India, for offences committed in the territories of any protected Prince.

" That no ſervant of the Company, or of his Majeſty, take upon himſelf to collect or farm the revenues of any protected Prince.

" That, if any ſervant of the Company ſhall invade the territories of any independent Prince, without written orders from the governor general and council, ſuch perſon upon conviction thereof be

" That

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“ That no protected Prince have any other Prince dependent upon him, any farther than ſuch Prince ſhall have ſtood bound to him before the year ; the troops of theſe laſt not to be required without the orders of the governor general and council, or preſident and council.

“ That the ſucceſſion of the protected Princes ſhall not be altered or diſpoſed of by will contrary to the laws of the country and the faith of treaties.

“ That the protected Princes do not farm any lands of the Company.

“ That no protected Prince be permitted to reſide for more than years in any of the Company's ſettlements, unleſs being expelled from his dominions.

“ That no ſervant of the Company have any pecuniary tranſactions with any protected Prince; all ſuch tranſactions to be and any perſon convicted of ſuch tranſaction to be

“ That no protected Prince remove, or increaſe the rent of any Zemindar beyond what was paid in the year.

“ That all Zemindars ſo diſpoſſeſſed ſhall be reſtored.

“ That the Nabob of Arcot, the Rajah of Tanjour, or any other protected Prince, do not mortgage any land to any Britiſh ſubject; ſuch mortgages to be and their produce recoverable by action.

“ That no money be received upon account of any debts from any protected Prince, except ſuch as were conſolidated in the year without being firſt examined, and appearing to the commiſſioners to have been contracted in ſome open and avowed courſe of trade, and not as the reward of any ſervice, or for any other matter prohibited by law, or by the future orders of the commiſſioners; the evidence in ſupport of the debt to be entered in the journals of the commiſſioners.

“ That the diſputes between the Nabob of Arcot, and the Rajah of Tanjour, be examined and adjuſted by the commiſſioners as ſoon as may be, according to the principles of the treaty of 1762, the orders of the directors to George Lord Pigot, and the arrangements of George Lord Pigot.

“ That the commiſſioners tranſmit to the governor general and council, or to the preſident and council of Fort St. George, or to ſuch perſons as they ſhall ſpecially appoint, full orders for terminating the ſaid diſputes; for examining the preſent ſtate of the affairs, revenues and debts of the ſaid Princes; and the claims of Britiſh ſubjects upon them; for making an immediate report to the commiſſioners; for adopting or ſuggeſting ſuch means for the liquidation of the *bonâ fide* debts, as ſhall be conſiſtent with juſtice to the creditors and the ſervice of the Company, and ſhall occaſion the leaſt inconvenience to theſe Princes; and for making an immediate report of their proceeding to the commiſſioners.

“ That all Polygars diſpoſſeſſed ſince the year be reſtored at the ſame rent as they were liable to pay immediately before.

“ That whereas diſputes have ariſen reſpecting the extent of the controling power given by the act 13th Geo. III. to the governor general and council over the preſidencies of Madras, Bombay, and Bencoolen, in matters of war, peace and treaties, the ſaid power do extend to all matters, directly or indirectly tending to the commencement of hoſtilities; the governor general and council to enter upon their minutes their reaſons for treating any proceeding as contrary to this declaration; and the preſidencies, in caſe of any doubt, to ſubmit to the acts of the governor general and council, and to lay the caſe before the commiſſioners.

“ That

“ That it be lawful for the preſidency of Bombay, in caſe of war or the danger of war, in the north weſt and weſtern coaſts of India, or in the territories of the Mahrattas, to conclude any treaty, truce, or alliance with any native Prince, the preſidency to inſert in ſuch treaty a proviſion, that the ſame ſhall be null and void, unleſs ratified within a limited time by the governor general and council; to enter upon their minutes the reaſons of their conduct with vouchers, to tranſmit to the governor general and council, and to the commiſſioners; and to obey the orders of the governor general until they ſhall be altered by the commiſſioners.

“ That the preſidency of Madras have the like power, in caſe of war or the danger of war, on the coaſt of Coromandel, or from   to   on the coaſt of Malabar.

“ That no ſervant of the Company, or agent of any protected Prince, be capable of ſitting in the Houſe of Commons; ſuch perſons actually members of the Houſe of Commons to ſit during the remainder of the preſent Parliament.

“ That no perſon having been in the ſervice of the Company, ſhall be capable of ſitting in the Houſe of Commons within   after his return, or whilſt any public proſecution is depending againſt him for any offences alleged to have been committed while he was in that ſervice; ſuch proſecutions to be commenced within   after his return, and to be determined within   , unleſs the delay be at the requeſt, or through the default of the party proſecuted.

“ That all offences againſt this act may be proſecuted in the Supreme Court at Calcutta, in the Mayor's courts, in the court of King's-bench, or in any other court, ſpecially to be inſtituted for this purpoſe; the powers given to the court of King's-bench by the act 13th Geo. III. to extend to offences againſt this act; and in all caſes where the puniſhment is not herein appointed, the court is to impoſe, at their diſcretion, any fine not exceeding   or impriſonment not exceeding   or the incapacity of ſerving the Company.”

The arguments in favour of the ſyſtem of regulation to be formed by theſe bills, aroſe principally from two ſources,—the various and general abuſes which had prevailed in the government it propoſed to model anew, and the diſtreſſed and involved ſtate of the Eaſt India Company's finances. The ſituation of the latter became the firſt ſubject of conſideration. In the courſe of the preceding year the Company had applied to Parliament for leave to borrow 500,000l. upon bonds; they had alſo petitioned for 300,000l. in Exchequer bills, and for the ſuſpenſion of a demand upon them on the part of Government for 700,000l. due for cuſtoms. As a check on the further encreaſe of their debts, they were bound, by an act of Parliament, not to accept bills, drawn in India, beyond the amount of 300,000l. without the permiſſion of the Lords of the Treaſury; and an application had been made for that purpoſe, as bills were at this period coming over from Bengal for acceptance, to the amount of upwards of two millions ſterling. Such was the ſituation of the Company at this important criſis. If the Company did not receive an adequate aſſiſtance, inevitable ruin was the attendant conſequence; and the bankruptcy of a body of merchants ſo extenſive in their concerns and of ſuch importance in the opinion of all Europe, muſt neceſſarily give a very alarming blow to our national credit. On the other hand, though it was abſolutely neceſſary to permit the acceptance of theſe bills, it would have been a meaſure deſerving the ſevereſt cenſure, if the public faith had been pledged for their payment, without a previous examination into the affairs of the Company, and forming ſome plan for reforming their conſtitution. Their actual debt was aſſerted by Mr. Fox, the oſtenſible framer of theſe bills, to be 11,200,000l. and they had ſtock in hand towards paying this immenſe ſum, to the amount of about 3,200,000l. The reſult of

A. D. 1783 this compariſon was a balance of 8,000,000l.; a ſum ſo immenſe, when compared with the capital of the proprietors, as to be a very natural cauſe of public alarm.

In oppoſition to this argument, it was averred, that the foregoing ſtatement was abſolutely falſe; and another account was preſented to the Houſe by the Court of Directors, in which there appeared a balance in favour of the Company of near 4,000,000l.—This extraordinary difference in the two accounts, may be eaſily reconciled from the different principles on which they were adjuſted. In the ſtatement of the directors, every ſpecies of the Company's property was brought into the account, and a balance ſtruck on the ſuppoſition of its being at that moment diſſolved: in the other, ſuch parts of their ſtock only were carried to their credit as could be diſpoſed of, leaving them ſtill in a condition to continue their trade, which it was the apparent object of the bill to enable them to do.

On the ſubject of abuſes that prevailed in the government of India, the reports of the two Indian committees gave an horrid detail; which, from its length, we cannot adopt, and, from its circumſtances, we are glad to paſs over, without being obliged to deſcribe them.

Theſe abuſes in India related, firſt, to the independent powers in that country, and were repreſented to conſiſt of extravagant projects, and expenſive wars, entered into by the Company for the purpoſe of extending their dominions; of their violations of treaties,—their breaches of faith,—the ſale of the Company's authority and aſſiſtance, in ſupport of the ambition, rapacity, and cruelty of others, as well as the betraying every prince, without exception, with whom they had formed any connection in India.

Secondly, The ſtates in alliance with, or dependent on us, were repreſented as being, and having been ſubject to a very ruinous and corrupt interference in their internal government; that their rights were invaded, exorbitant aids and tribute unjuſtly exacted, and the moſt flagrant peculations committed, as well as ravages perpetrated, by the civil and military ſervants of the Company: and,

Thirdly, With reſpect to the management of the countries under the immediate dominion of the Company, it was ſtated, that the conduct of its governors and inferior officers appeared to have but one object,—the tranſmiſſion of wealth from India to Great Britain. With this view, monopolies had at one time been eſtabliſhed, not only of every article of trade, but even of the neceſſaries of life: at another, the privilege of pre-emption was ſecured to the Company; and theſe were followed by partial and arbitrary preferences, not leſs ruinous in their conſequences than the former. By ſuch an oppreſſive and impolitic conduct, the merchants and bankers of India, many of whom, in point of credit and extenſive dealings, were ſcarcely equalled by thoſe of the firſt claſs in Europe, were diſabled from continuing their habitual career of commercial undertaking; whilſt the native cultivators and manufacturers, from the decay of trade, were obliged to be contented with the pittance that was meaſured out to them by thoſe who were to profit by their labour. But this was not all;—the original evil extended itſelf far and wide: the ſervants of the Company adopted the principles of their maſters; and ſetting them in motion, for their own private purpoſes, completed the miſchief.—The caſe of the Zemindars, and of the renters under them, was ſtill more deplorable; and theſe ſufferings of the natives under our dominion in India, were, with great truth, repreſented as being very much aggravated by their excluſion from any ſhare in the expenditures of the Company's government. All the principal collections of the revenue,—all the honourable,—all the lucrative ſituations in the army,—all the ſupplies and contracts, of every kind, were ſolely in the hands of the Engliſh: ſo that the natives, with very few exceptions, were only

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1783 employed as the ſervants or agents of Europeans, in ſubordinate ſtations in the army, and in the inferior departments in the revenue.

On the whole of the article of abuſes, it was inſiſted, that by accumulated acts of injuſtice, oppreſſion, and cruelty, dictated by an improvident and rapacious policy, our poſſeſſions in India, inſtead of a reſource to the public, were in danger of becoming one of its greateſt burthens; that, by the oppreſſion of our allies and dependants, they had either alienated them from us, or rendered them uſeleſs and burthenſome to us; that, by wars carried on from corrupt and ambitious motives, and by repeated violations of the moſt ſolemn engagements with foreign powers, all confidence in Britiſh faith and juſtice had been obliterated, and our government rendered odious throughout India.

The facts from which theſe concluſions were drawn, and the concluſions themſelves, (both of which, indeed, were recorded in the proceedings of the Houſe of Commons) were not controverted by thoſe who oppoſed the bills in any other manner than by a general charge of exaggeration; but the plea of neceſſity, which the framers of them had undertaken to eſtabliſh, on the principle, that theſe abuſes, without a total change of ſyſtem, were utterly incurable, was more ſtrongly conteſted.

In the courſe of debate, it was frequently ſuggeſted, that a company of merchants was totally unfit to be truſted with the political government of a diſtant foreign dominion, or with the management of large territorial revenues; but as this poſition was not generally aſſented to, in its whole extent, by either party, the arguments principally inſiſted on, were drawn from the peculiar conſtitution and circumſtances of the Company itſelf.

The oppoſition to theſe bills was conducted by Mr. William Pitt.—Two objections were principally inſiſted on by this gentleman and his ſupporters; the one built upon the infringement, or rather annihilation of the charter of the Company; the other, upon the new and unconſtitutional influence the propoſed meaſures were calculated to create.

India, it is true, ſaid they, cried aloud for a reform; but not ſuch a reform as was now propoſed: it wanted a conſtitutional, and not a tyrannical alteration, that was contrary to every principle of equity and juſtice. By the bill in queſtion, an attack was made on the moſt ſolemn charters: it aimed a fatal blow at the integrity and the faith of Parliament, and looſened every tie by which man was bound to man. This charter did not owe its birth to the fooliſh prepoſſeſſion or the mad prodigality of a Plantagenet, a Tudor, or a Stuart; it was a fair purchaſe from the public,—an equal compact, for reciprocal advantages, between the proprietors and the nation at large.

If the principle on which this bill was founded, ſhould be once eſtabliſhed, what ſecurity was there for the other public companies of the kingdom? What ſecurity had the national creditors, or the public corporations? Or, indeed, what aſſurance ſhould we poſſeſs for the Great Charter itſelf, the foundation of all our privileges and all our liberties?—It would be folly in the extreme to ſuppoſe, that the principle, once admitted, would operate only on the affairs of the Eaſt India Company; when a bad principle was by any means eſtabliſhed, there would never be wanting bad men to extend its effects.

The charter which gave to the India Company its rights, was conceived in the cleareſt terms that language could expreſs. It was ſuperior, both in ſtrength and perſpicuity, to that of the bank of England. The right by which the King held the ſceptre of Great Britain was not more ſolemnly confirmed. The bill included a confiſcation of the property, and a disfranchiſement of the members of the Eaſt India Company. It required the directors to deliver

1783 liver up all lands, tenements, houſes, books, records, charters, inſtruments, veſſels, goods, money, and ſecurities. The power, indeed, was declared to be created in truſt for the benefit of the proprietors; but in caſe of any, even the moſt daring breach of truſt, to whom could an appeal be made?—Not to the proprietors, but to a majority of either houſe of Parliament, which the weakeſt miniſter could not fail to ſecure, with the patronage of above two millions ſterling given by this bill.

It might be anſwered, on the ſuggeſtion made by the framers of this bill, that it was not a bill of disfranchiſement, becauſe it did not take from the proprietors their right to an excluſive trade,—that this trade was not the only franchiſe of the proprietors.—If a franchiſe belonging to a freehold was taken away, the property might remain; but, ſurely, the freeholder would have a very juſt cauſe of complaint. The caſe was parallel as to India ſtock:—Perſons poſſeſſed of ſtock to a certain amount, are entitled to vote upon every important queſtion of the Company's affairs; and the value of ſtock is enhanced from this privilege: this bill, therefore, by taking it away, might be charged, in every ſenſe of the word, with disfranchiſing the proprietors.

The bill was alſo conſidered, by ſome, as pregnant with fatal conſequences, from its tendency to increaſe the influence of the crown; but it was principally objected to from its being calculated to create a new, enormous, and unexampled patronage, which it placed in the hands of the miniſter. Mr. Dundas, the late Lord Advocate of Scotland, went ſo far as to accuſe Mr. Fox of endeavouring to create a fourth eſtate in the realm, which being poſſeſſed of an immenſe patronage, independent of the crown and of Parliament, might be attended with fatal conſequences to the conſtitution of Great Britain.

Previous to the ſecond reading of the bill, a petition was preſented to the Houſe of Commons by the directors of the Eaſt India Company, and another from the proprietors, repreſenting the meaſure as ſubverſive of their charter, and operating as a confiſcation of their property, without charging them with any ſpecific delinquency,—without trial, and without conviction; a proceeding wholly contrary to the moſt ſacred privilege of Britiſh ſubjects. They therefore prayed, that the acts of delinquency preſumed againſt them, might be ſtated in writing, and a reaſonable time allowed them to deliver in their anſwer; and that they might be heard by themſelves or their counſel againſt the bill.

In ſhort, this famous bill was attacked and defended with great ſpirit and eloquence in all its ſtages. During the progreſs of it, a petition was preſented by the mayor, aldermen, and common council of London to Parliament, praying that it might not paſs into a law. In the committee it was determined that the commiſſioners ſhould not be diſqualified from ſitting in the Houſe of Commons; but the ſame privilege was not extended to the aſſiſtants. On the motion of Sir William Dolben, the duration of the bill was fixed to the term of four years.—Beſides the oppoſition it encountered with regard to its principle, much complaint was made of the indecent haſte with which it was carried through the Houſe. It was ſupported, however, through all its ſtages, by a very conſiderable majority of members. On the 8th of December, the bill paſſed the Commons, on a diviſion of 208 to 102, and the next day was carried up to the Lords.

This bill had been carried in the Houſe of Commons by ſuch a commanding majority, as not to leave in the minds of its ſupporters the leaſt apprehenſion of the fate which hung over it. On the 9th of December, Mr. Fox, attended by a great number of members, preſented the bill at the bar of the Houſe of Lords. On its firſt reading, a very powerful oppoſition ap-

1783 peared to riſe up againſt it. Lord Thurlow expreſſed himſelf in the moſt decided manner on this occaſion: he gave it as his opinion, that the bill was a moſt atrocious violation of private property; that it contained powers which touched the deareſt rights of Engliſhmen, and could only be juſtified by the moſt irreſiſtible neceſſity, which ought not to be allowed on the reports of a committee, but was of that importance as to demand a full and fair proof, by evidence at the bar of the Houſe. The ſecond reading took place on the 15th of the ſame month, and counſel was heard on the part of the directors and proprietors. On the 17th, a motion was made that the bill be rejected; which, after a very powerful debate, was carried, by a majority of 95 againſt 76.

The fate of this bill involved in it the fate of the adminiſtration that produced it; and, on the 18th of December, a new adminiſtration was appointed.—Mr. William Pitt was made Firſt Lord of the Treaſury,—Earl Gower Preſident of the Council,—Earl Temple held the ſeals of Secretary of State for a very few days, till Lord Sydney and the Marquis of Carmarthen were appointed to receive them,—Lord Thurlow was reſtored to the office of Chancellor,—the Duke of Rutland was appointed Lord Privy Seal,—Lord Howe Firſt Lord of the Admiralty,—and the Duke of Richmond Maſter-General of the Ordnance, &c.—On the 26th, Parliament was adjourned to the 12th of January, 1784.

On the 27th of December, the following declaration of his Majeſty in council concerning the commerce of Great Britain with the United States of America, was publiſhed in the London Gazette:—

" *At the Court of St. James's, the 26th of December*, 1783.

" Whereas, by virtue of an act paſſed in the laſt ſeſſion of Parliament, entitled, ' An act for preventing certain inſtruments from being required from ſhips belonging to the United States of America, and to give to his Majeſty, for a limited time, certain powers, for the better carrying on trade and commerce between the ſubjects of his Majeſty's dominions and the inhabitants of the United States,' ſeveral orders have been iſſued by his Majeſty at this board, for regulating and carrying on the trade and commerce between the ſubjects of his Majeſty's dominions and the inhabitants of the United States of America, which orders did expire on the 20th day of this inſtant December: and whereas by an act paſſed in the preſent ſeſſion of Parliament, to continue, for a limited time, the ſaid above recited act, it is enacted, that the ſaid act, and all the matters and things therein contained, ſhall continue and be in force until the 20th day of April, 1784.—His Majeſty doth thereupon, by and with the advice of his privy council, hereby order and declare, that any unmanufactured goods or merchandizes, the importation of which into this kingdom is not prohibited by law, (except oil) and any pitch, tar, turpentine, indigo, maſts, yards, and bowſprits, being the growth or production of any of the United States of America, may (until farther order) be imported directly from thence into any of the ports of this kingdom, either in Britiſh or American ſhips, by Britiſh ſubjects, or by any of the people inhabiting in and belonging to the ſaid United States, or any of them, and may be entered or landed in any port of this kingdom, upon payment of the ſame duties as the like ſort of goods or merchandize are or may be ſubject and liable to, if imported by Britiſh ſubjects, in Britiſh ſhips, from any Britiſh iſland or plantation in America, and no other, notwithſtanding ſuch goods or merchandize, or the ſhips in which the ſame may be brought, may not be accompanied with the certificates or other documents heretofore required by law.

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“ And it is hereby further ordered, that there ſhall be the ſame drawbacks, exemptions, and bounties on merchandizes and goods exported from Great Britain into the territories of the ſaid United States of America, or any of them, as are or may be allowed by law, upon the exportation of the like goods or merchandize to any of the iſlands, plantations, or colonies, belonging to the crown of Great Britain in America.

“ And his Majeſty is hereby further pleaſed pleaſed to order, that any tobacco, being the growth of any of the territories of the ſaid United States of America, may (until further order) be imported directly from thence, in manner above mentioned, and may be landed in this kingdom, upon the importer paying down, in ready money, the duty commonly called the old ſubſidy, (except as herein after excepted) ſuch tobacco may be warehouſed under his Majeſty's locks, upon the importer's own bond for payment of all the further duties due for ſuch tobacco, within the time limited by law, according to the net weight and quantity of ſuch tobacco, at the time it ſhall be ſo landed, with the ſame allowances for the payment of ſuch further duties, and under the like reſtrictions and regulations, in all other reſpects, not altered by this order, as ſuch tobacco is and may be warehouſed by virtue of any act or acts of Parliament in force: but it is his Majeſty's pleaſure, nevertheleſs, that upon the importation of any ſuch tobacco into the ports of London, Briſtol, Liverpool, Cowes, Whitehaven, Greenock, and Port Glaſgow, or either of them, in the manner herein before expreſſed, the importer ſhall be at liberty, until further order, to enter into bond for the payment as well of the duty commonly called the old ſubſidy, or any other of the duties which were formerly payable in ready money; and that if any tobacco which has been, or ſhall be ſo imported, during the continuance of this order, from the territories of the ſaid United States into the ſaid ports of London, Briſtol, Liverpool, Cowes, Whitehaven, Greenock, and Port Glaſgow, ſhall be afterwards taken, within the time limited, out of the warehouſes wherein the ſame ſhall be ſecured under his Majeſty's locks, in manner herein before directed, at either of the above ports, to be exported directly from thence, the bonds which have been, or ſhall be entered into, for payment of the ſaid duties, ſhall be diſcharged in the manner directed by the ſeveral acts of Parliament in force.

“ And, in order to facilitate the carrying trade and commerce between the people and territories belonging to the crown of Great Britain in the Weſt Indies, including in that deſcription, the Bahama iſlands, and the Bermuda or Somer iſlands, and the people and territories belonging to the ſaid United States of America, his Majeſty is hereby further pleaſed to order, that pitch, tar, turpentine, hemp, flax, maſts, yards, and bowſprits, ſtaves, heading-boards, timber, ſhingles, and all other ſpecies of lumber; horſes, neat cattle, ſheep, hogs, poultry, and all other ſpecies of live ſtock and live proviſions; peas, beans, potatoes, wheat, flour, bread, biſcuit, rice, oats, barley, and all other ſpecies of grain, being the growth or production of any of the ſaid United States of America, may (until further order) be imported by Britiſh ſubjects, in Britiſh built ſhips, owned by his Majeſty's ſubjects, and navigated according to law, from any port of the ſaid United States of America, to any of his Majeſty's Weſt India iſlands, the Bahama iſlands, and the Bermuda or Somers iſlands; and the rum, ſugar, melaſſes, coffee, cocoa-nuts, ginger, and pimento, may (until ſuch order) be exported by Britiſh ſubjects, in Britiſh ſhips, owned by his Majeſty's ſubjects, and navigated according to law, from any of the ſaid iſlands, to any port or place within the ſaid United States, upon the payment of the ſame duties on exportation, and ſubject to the like rules, regulations, ſecurities, and reſtrictions, as the ſame articles by law are or may be ſubject and liable to, if exported to any

Britiſh

1783 Britiſh colony or plantation in America; and the bonds and ſecurities heretofore required to be taken for ſuch ſhips carrying ſuch goods, ſhall, and may be cancelled and diſcharged, upon the like certificates as are required by the above recited act, to diſcharge any bonds given in Great Britain for the due landing any other goods in the ſaid United States of America.

"And his Majeſty is hereby further pleaſed to order, with the advice aforeſaid, that the ſaid ſeveral regulations herein comprized, ſhall, in all reſpects, be extended to ſuch ſhips and goods as ſhall have been brought and imported from, or may be entered and ſhipped for exportation, to any part of the ſaid United States, ſince the ſaid 20th day of this inſtant December.

"And the Right Honourable the Lords Commiſſioners of his Majeſty's Treaſury, and the Lords Commiſſioners of the Admiralty, are to give the neceſſary directions herein, as to them may reſpectively appertain. STEPHEN COTTREL.

The continental coloniſts, when on the eve of a revolt, were convinced that their traffic was obviouſly eſſential to the Weſt Indians, and therefore prohibited all commerce between them: yet eight years experience hath evinced, that it is poſſible for the Weſt Indies to exiſt and to proſper, even if the United States were doomed to perpetual ſterility. It is the mercantile ſpirit which brings the buyers and ſellers of diſtant countries together: merchants are always attentive to diſcover the demands of every market, that they may profit by ſupplying them.—The traders of Great Britain and Ireland ſeized the opportunity which the factious folly of the Americans had furniſhed, to revive and extend the buſineſs that had enriched their fathers during happier times. Even during a conſuming war, when vaſt fleets and armies were fed beyond the ocean, Great Britain and Ireland ſufficiently ſupplied all thoſe neceſſaries which the Weſt Indians did not readily find in their own œconomy. Their ſuperabundance even furniſhed the army that General Grant conducted to their aid, with ſeveral months proviſions, while the fleet ſometimes partook of what the planters had to ſpare.—The following cuſtom-houſe entries will ſufficiently ſhew whence that abundance was drawn at the beginning, at the middle, and at the end of the war.

Of ſalted proviſions there were exported from England alone,—

	Iriſh Beef. Barrels.	*Iriſh Pork.* Barrels.	*Engliſh Beef and Pork.*	*Total* Barrels.	*Engliſh Bacon.* Flitches.	*Engliſh Tripe.* Kegs.
In 1773	1,195	383	259	1,787	558	306
In 1780	9,844	3,471	4,480	17,795	3,369	1,582
In 1783	9,848	3,059	3,619	16,526	5,188	2,559

Contraſt with theſe quantities the Weſt India ſupply of beef and pork from the revolted colonies, according to an average of three years, ending with 1773, 14,992

Of pickled fiſh there were exported from England only, during the ſame period, viz.

	Red Herrings. Barrels.	*White ditto.* Barrels.	*Total* Barrels.	*Pilchards.* Hogſheads.	*Salmon.* Barrels.
In 1773	514	1,876	2,390	211	5
In 1780	1,816	7,281	9,097	1,188	109
In 1713	2,840	15,060	17,900	313	35

Contraſt with theſe the Weſt India ſupply of *pickled* fiſh from the revolted colonies, according to an average of three years, ending with 1773, 16,200

1783 From England only there were exported of butter, cheeſe, and beer,—

	Iriſh Butter.	*Engliſh ditto.*	*Engliſh Cheeſe.*	*Beer.*
	Cwt.	Firkins.	Cwt.	Tons.
In 1773	1,195	92	3,247	1,881
In 1780	9,844	274	3,660	2,042
In 1783	3,195	522	4,475	3,170

From the foregoing entries, with all their defects, it is ſufficiently clear, that Great Britain had regained the ſupply of the articles contained in them; and that, as to theſe neceſſaries, the Weſt Indian demand was amply anſwered. The planters derived ground proviſions from the beſt of all reſources,—their own diligence and attention. In ſhort, the Weſt Indians began, at this time, to learn a leſſon of the greateſt importance for every people to know, that no community ought to depend on its neighbour for what the neceſſaries of life require; and that the country which is phyſically dependent on another, muſt ſoon become politically dependent upon it.

There were alſo actually exported to the Britiſh Weſt Indies from England alone,—

	Wheat-flour.	*Oat-meal.*	*Bread.*
	Quarters.	Quarters.	Cwt.
In 1773	0	18	404
In 1780	35,907	758	32,587
In 1783	4,090	125	6,657

From Scotland there were exported in 1779 as follows:—Wheat-flour, 2,475 quarters; oat-meal, 177 ditto; bread, 5,254 hundred-weight.

There were alſo exported from England alone,—

	Barley.	*Peas.*	*Beans.*	*Oats.*	*Wheat.*	*Rye.*
	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.
In 1773	3	356	9,089	16,615	0	350
In 1780	256	1,116	12,291	8,006	1,146	1,116
In 1783	146	755	7,360	6,129	8	755

Of ſeveral of theſe articles there were alſo exported from Scotland in 1779, as follows:— Peas and beans, 1,327 quarters; oats, 1,052 ditto; barley, 44 ditto; wheat, 4 ditto.

From theſe cuſtom-houſe entries it is very evident, by contraſting the exports of three years, what has been the effect of competition between Great Britain and the American ſtates. The revolted colonies had gradually circumvented the parent country in ſupplying the Britiſh Weſt Indies with all the productions of agriculture. The Britiſh yeomanry, burthened with the payment of rents, tithes, and poor-rates, could not contend with the American farmers, who were exempted from all theſe burthens, and whoſe public taxes were ſo much lighter.— Mr. Arthur Young, in his Political Arithmetic, has very ably proved, that in the year 1774, the American farmer could not only ſupply the Weſt India market with flour much cheaper than the Engliſh farmer could do, but even exclude the Engliſh farmer from ſupplying the domeſtic markets of Britain with wheat. It is, however, curious to remark, how near to each other the events of the late war have brought the prices of proviſions in America and in

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1783 Great Britain. The current rates at the two great markets of Philadelphia and London, in December 1783, may be compared by the following detail:—

	Philadelphia Prices.			*London Prices.*		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Of fine flour, per cwt.	0	15	9	0	16	0
Of common ditto,	0	13	0	0	14	0
Of meſs beef, per barrel,	2	2	6	2	2	6
Of meſs pork, ditto,	3	0	0	2	8	0
	£.6	11	3	£.6	0	6

It is a remarkable fact, that the prices of all things have been uncommonly high in the United States ſince the peace. It was not, however, to be ſuppoſed that the London and Philadelphia prices could long continue to run thus parallel to each other; though the freights might continue to run cheaper from London than from Philadelphia. The advantages of the American farmer, notwithſtanding the additional burthens of independence, will continue ſo ſuperior, in reſpect to rents, tithes, and poor-rates, over the Britiſh farmer, that the former muſt at length overpower the latter in every competition. But, whatever may be the difference in the price to the Weſt Indians, it ſhould be conſidered as a ſmall equivalent, which they ought to pay to the Britiſh conſumer for enjoying the excluſive ſupply of ſugar, rum, and other Weſt India products: for the American citizens having now ceaſed to be fellow-ſubjects, ought certainly to be excluded from a right and a benefit which we had formerly relinquiſhed in their favour. The Britiſh ſailors and Britiſh farmers deſerve all the protection of the Britiſh legiſlature: the firſt fight our battles,—the latter ſupply us with food.—The farmers are, therefore, entitled to the preference in ſupplying the Weſt India markets with all the productions of agriculture; while the ſailors have, at leaſt, an equal claim to the employment which ariſes from additional freights; and the public will gain in the exact proportion as the intereſt of theſe two moſt uſeful bodies of men are promoted.

The following ſtatement evidently proves, that the Britiſh ſhipping had greatly encreaſed by the excluſion of the American, even amidſt the calamities of war.

A comparative View of the Shipping employed in the foreign Trade of Britain at the Commencement and End of the late War, as they appear in the Regiſter of the Inſurers at Lloyd's Coffee-houſe, diſtinguiſhing the Britiſh from the American built Ships.

The Shipping of 1772-3-4.	Ships.	Tons.	*The Shipping of* 1781-2-3.	Ships.	Tons.
Britiſh built ſhips,	3,908	605,545	Britiſh built ſhips,	3,848	708,346
American ditto,	2,311	373,618	American ditto,	2,334	225,439
			Total,	5,182	933,785
			Deficience,	1,037	45,478
Total,	6,219	979,263		6,219	979,263

It is thus apparent, that of the whole deficience of 1,037 veſſels, there were only wanting, in 1783, of Britiſh ſhips, 60; and of American ſhips, 977: yet, that the total inferiority of the period of war to the period of peace, amounted only to 45,478 tons; while there was an increaſe of 102,701 Britiſh tons, and a decreaſe of 148,179 American tons.

A. D. 1783. It ſhould be obſerved, in this place, that there were vaſt fleets, which, though built by Britiſh ſhipwrights, were not included in the ſurveys of 1781, 1782, and 1783; becauſe they had not touched at any Britiſh port, and were employed by government in the tranſport ſervice. From the report of the commiſſioners of public accounts, it appears, that there were employed at New York, by the quarter-maſter general, the barrack-maſter, and the commiſſary general, in the four years ending with 1780, no fewer than 611 veſſels, carrying 44,916 tons. Were this fleet brought to the account of 1783, it would about complete the defective quantity of tonnage, though not the number of ſhips. Many of thoſe veſſels, or, perhaps, a greater number, remained till November 1783, to perform the ſervice of final evacuation; and all, or, at leaſt, many of them, have again entered into the merchants employment ſince that ſignal epoch, and properly fill up the void which the excluſion of the American ſhipping had left. But what is that fleet to the vaſt navy which was conſtantly employed during the years 1781, 1782, and 1783, by the Victualling-office, the Ordnance-office, and the Navy-office, amounting to upwards of a thouſand veſſels?—And, from an inſpection of Lloyd's Regiſter, we may learn, that all theſe tranſports could not have been ſurveyed; becauſe the few tranſports which appear to have been reported, conſiſted of thoſe veſſels that were employed by the private contractors for various ſupplies. When all thoſe, or even the half of thoſe which had been employed by the public boards, are brought to account, it cannot be ſaid, with any degree of truth, that there was any deficience in the year 1783.

The number of ſhips which were employed by England in the whale-fiſhery, to Davis's Straits and the Greenland ſeas, amounted, during the courſe of this year, to 47: thoſe of Holland, in the ſame trade, and during the ſame period, to 55.

The Canada ſales of this year in London, amounted to 165,000l.

According to the account delivered in at Pontefract ſeſſions, by John Seaton, Eſq. treaſurer for the Weſt Riding of York, it appears, that from the 25th of March, 1782, to the 25th of March, 1783, there had been manufactured 131,092 pieces of broad woollens, meaſuring 4,563,376 yards; and 108,641 pieces of narrow cloths, meaſuring 3,292,002 yards: and that the increaſe of this year was 18,622 pieces of broad, and 11,892 pieces of narrow woollens.

It may not here be improper to remark, that wool was, at this time, from 25 to 35 per cent. dearer in France than in England: which, by giving the Engliſh cloth manufacturer ſo decided an advantage in the raw material, enabled him to maintain his wonted ſuperiority in the foreign market, particularly over thoſe of France, our moſt formidable competitors in that important branch of commerce, and who had lately made great improvements in their woollen manufactory. Black cattle, of all kinds, were however dearer in England than in France, by full 50 per cent.; yet horſes, of all ſorts, were from 24 to 30 per cent. and ſome from 40 to 50 per cent. cheaper in England than in France.

A celebrated Engliſh calculator, at this time, ſuppoſes the lands of England to amount to 39,000,000 acres; the annual rent of which was 10,000,000l.; that of houſes and other buildings, 2,000,000l.; the yearly rent of corn lands, 2,200,000l.; while their net produce is more than 9,000,000l. of which the wheat, barley, and rye, amounts to at leaſt 6,000,000l. ſterling per annum: the rent of paſtures, meadows, commons, foreſts, heaths, &c. 7,000,000l.; and the value of the produce of the various ſpecies of cattle, 9,075,000l. ſuppoſing the year moderately plentiful.

1783 Dr. Watſon, Biſhop of Llandaff, in his publication for equalizing the benefices of the clergy, values the eccleſiaſtical preferment, or land in mortmain, of the kingdom, as follows:—

	£.
Landed eſtate of the univerſity of Cambridge, —	60,000
Ditto of Oxford, — —	120,000
Biſhopricks, — — —	120,000
Deaneries and chapters, —	90,000
Livings, — — —	1,100,000
Total,	1,490,000
A ſimilar valuation by Dr. Warner, amounts to —	1,680,000
Ditto, by Dr. Burn, — —	1,500,000
Ditto, by Dr. Young, —	1,600,000

The number of newſpapers printed in England, during the laſt ten years, is as follows:—

In 1774, —	12,562,000	In 1779, —	14,106,842
1775, —	12,600,000	1780, —	14,217,371
1776, —	12,830,000	1781, —	14,397,600
1777, —	13,150,642	1782, —	15,272,519
1778, —	13,240,659	1783, —	15,564,203

The annual product of the undermentioned manufactures, at this time, was calculated in the following manner:—

	£.		£.
Woollen, —	16,800,000	Cotton, —	960,000
Leather, —	10,500,000	Lead, —	1,650,000
Flax, —	1,750,000	Tin, —	1,000,000
Hemp, —	890,000	Iron, —	8,700,000
Glaſs, —	630,000	Steel, plating, &c.	3,400,000
Paper, —	780,000		
Porcelain, —	1,000,000	Total,	£. 51,310,000
Silk, —	3,350,000		

The iron, glaſs, and porcelain on a rapid increaſe.

Tin and leather, declining.

Paper, increaſing.

Flax, rather falling.

Hemp, ſtationary.

Silk, rather increaſing.

The Duke of Portland is in poſſeſſion of a calculation that makes theſe fabrics employ 5,250,000 ſouls.

The failure of the celebrated *Caiſſe d'Eſcompte*, in France, which happened in this year, may be conſidered as amounting almoſt to a national bankruptcy, and is too intereſting a ſubject to eſcape our notice.

This bank is of a very late inſtitution: the edict which authorized the undertaking, is dated on the 22d of September, 1776. The plan was originally formed by a company of private adventurers, and its capital was fixed at 500,000l.—Its profeſſed deſign was to diſcount *(eſcompter)* bills of exchange, payable at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum. But this intereſt, from which it

A. D. 1783. it is neceſſary to deduct a conſiderable expence, and ſome loſſes, could never be equivalent for the capital ſunk by the proprietors. An additional power was therefore granted them of iſſuing notes to the amount of their capital; which, as they were capable at any time of being converted into ſpecie, might be often taken voluntarily by their cuſtomers, from mere convenience: and as the perſons at the head of this eſtabliſhment were chiefly the moſt eminent bankers, together with ſome receivers-general of the revenues, they were able, by agreeing among themſelves to take theſe notes inſtead of caſh, to give them a certain degree of circulation and currency. The notes thus iſſued, added to the original 500,000l. doubled their capital, and enabled them to divide upon their ſtock at the rate of about 6 per cent. per annum.

The excellent outline of this ſyſtem ſeemed to enſure its ſucceſs. There was always in the *Caiſſe* a ſum of money, either in ſpecie or in bills of a ſhort date, amounting to 500,000l. equivalent to the notes in circulation. There was, beſides this, the 500,000l. originally advanced by the projectors, and never withdrawn; as alſo a part of the dividends, which the proprietors had choſen to leave in the *Caiſſe*, for the purpoſe of accumulation. Theſe circumſtances had given the bank the higheſt degree of reputation, and cauſed its ſtock to ſell greatly above par. But, notwithſtanding theſe appearances, to the aſtoniſhment of the public, on the 2d of October in this year, the *Caiſſe d'Eſcompte* ſtopped payment. The aſſigned cauſe was the uncommon ſcarcity of ſpecie; and it cannot be denied.—The public, however, imagined that the failure originated in a loan ſecretly made to government by the *Caiſſe d'Eſcompte*; and government, about the ſame time, ſtopping payment of the bills drawn upon them by their army in America, confirmed the ſuſpicion.

The King, however, extended his ſupport to the falling company. Four edicts were accordingly publiſhed, in order to relieve the diſtreſs under which it laboured. By the firſt, dated September 27, the ſtate of accounts of the *Caiſſe d'Eſcompte* being affirmed to be as above related, this bank was authorized to pay its notes in bills of exchange, with beneficial diſcount.—The notes were ordered to have currency in the banks of Paris only; and all proſecution was forbidden of the *Caiſſe* for payment in ſpecie, and of individuals for debts, the payment of which had been rendered in notes of the *Caiſſe d'Eſcompte*.—The edict was to remain in force till the 1ſt of January, 1784.—By the ſecond edict, dated September the 30th, the ordinances againſt the exportation of ſpecie were renewed; the tranſport of ſpecie from province to province was ſubjected to inſpections and a fee; the bills with which the *Caiſſe d'Eſcompte* was permitted to pay its notes, were ſpecified to be bills payable in three months; and the *Caiſſe* was allowed the option of paying its notes in ſpecie. By a third edict, dated October the 4th, an eſtimate was declared to have been taken, by the King's command; the *Caiſſe* was allowed an opportunity of diſcounting bills, as before, whenever it was judged convenient: and, as a further encouragement, a lottery, with a ſtock of one million ſterling, redeemable in eight years, being eſtabliſhed, the tickets were made purchaſeable in notes of the *Caiſſe d'Eſcompte*.—In each of theſe edicts there was much repetition; and the fourth, which was dated October the 10th, contained no original matter.

We ſhall now proceed to take a brief view of the affairs and commerce of Ireland.

The adminiſtration of Earl Temple, in that kingdom, had been attended with the moſt conciliatory effects: addreſſes flowed in upon him from all quarters; while good-humour and confidence ſeemed once more to be reſtored in a nation which had, for ſome time, been diſtinguiſhed by diſtraction and tumult. During this year, ſeveral agents arrived in Ireland from the exiled Geneveſe; and, in conſequence of their application, every encouragement was given

A. D.
1783 to thoſe martyrs to the cauſe of liberty, by the government, nobility, and people of Ireland, to induce them to form a colony in that kingdom.

The following is an account of the quantity and value of linen exported from Ireland to Great Britain, during this year, ending the 25th of March :—

		Yards.	£.	*s.*	*d.*
Linen cloth, plain	—	15,212,968	1,014,197	18	0
Linen coloured,	—				

The quantity and value exported to every other country, excluſive of Great Britain, during the ſame period.

		Yards.	£.	*s.*	*d.*
Linen cloth, plain	—	826,737	55,115	16	0
Linen coloured,	—	166,127½	13,151	15	1½

The extraordinary decreaſe of exportation of linens to Great Britain in this year, muſt principally have ariſen from the unſettled ſtate of the country,—from the increaſed exportation of other countries,—and from the checks occaſioned by the viciſſitudes of war: it may, perhaps, in ſome meaſure, have ariſen from the market being glutted by the great export of the preceding year; for, the next year, the quantity increaſed again.

			Yards.
The Iriſh linen entitled to bounty, which was exported from England, between January 1782, and January 1783, amounted to		—	1,087,561
Iriſh linen not entitled to bounty, to	—	—	150,266
		Total,	1,137,827

The above quantity exported, with and without bounty, is nearly the average for ſeveral years paſt.

During the courſe of this year, ending March 25th, there were exported from Ireland to the Weſt Indies, 35,960 barrels of herrings.

The increaſe of the herring-fiſhery in Ireland, is evident from the following account :—

The average annual quantity of herrings exported from Ireland for four years, ending the 25th of March, 1767, was 4,672 barrels.

The average annual quantity imported into Ireland, for the ſame years, was 32,824 barrels.

The average annual quantity of herrings exported from Ireland for four years, ending the 25th of March, 1783, was 24,273 barrels.

The average quantity of herrings imported into Ireland for the ſame period, was 12,277 barrels.

As the latter were years of war, the increaſe of exportation is more extraordinary.

The total of fiſh exported from Ireland to all parts in this year, ending the 25th of March, was, cod, 272 barrels ;—ditto, 5 cwt. ;—eels, 1⅓ barrels ;—hake, 1,367 cwt. 3 qrs. 10 fiſh ;—herrings, 48,481½ barrels ;—ling, 170 cwt. ;—ſalmon, 253 tons.

The total of fiſh imported into Ireland for the ſame period, was, anchovies, 294 barrels ;—cod, 531 cwt. and 5 fiſh ;—herrings, 4,324 barrels ;—ling, 281 cwt. 1 qr. and 5 fiſh ;—oyſters, 5 gallons ;—ſalmon, 47 tons ; ſturgeon, 33 kegs.

The importation was, in all probability, an accidental circumſtance.

The oil exported from Ireland, in this year, amounted only to 1 hogſhead, 7 gallons of train oil.

A. D. 1783 The oil imported into Ireland, in the ſame period, was as follows, viz.

		Gallons.				Gallons.
Linſeed,	—	25,311½	——	Sweet,	—	9,795
Seville,	—	29,475½	——	Train,	—	76,595

In this year only 784 yards of frize were exported from Ireland,—84 to America, and 700 to Flanders: but though the export is ſo much decreaſed, the conſumption of it by the inhabitants is probably increaſed. It is remarkable, that frize was the principal woollen manufacture of Ireland, when her wool was much finer than it is at preſent. The large part of the frizes that came to England were dreſſed, and, receiving a great degree of manufacture, afforded a conſiderable profit to this country.

In 1781, 1779 yards, and in 1782, only 800 yards of this fabric were exported, principally to America.

In this year the ſtate of the woollen cloth importation from Great Britain to Ireland is as follows: viz. old drapery, 371,871 yards; new ditto, 420,415 yards.

The importation of Spaniſh wool into Ireland has been very unequal.

In 1774, was imported 210 cwt. of wool,—48 of which only was imported from Spain, the reſt from Great Britain.

In 1775, was imported 96 cwt.—41 of which only was imported from Spain, the reſt from Great Britain.

In 1776, was imported 328 cwt.—155 of which only was imported from Spain, the reſt from Great Britain.

In 1783, was imported 261 cwt.—none from Spain, 5 cwt. from Flanders, and the reſt from Great Britain.

It may indeed be preſumed, that the conſumption of fine woollens has, in ſome meaſure, decreaſed in Ireland, as well as in England, from the introduction of Mancheſter manufactures of cotton, which are worn as cloathing, and, in particular, ſo generally for waiſtcoats and breeches.

But the woollen manufacture of Ireland ſeems to be taking the moſt natural and beſt turn. The new drapery branch advances rapidly: it conſumes the wool of the country: it is leſs difficult in many branches, and requires leſs ſkill than the ſuperfine broad cloths. The importation of new drapery decreaſes, and the exportation is become very conſiderable.

It may not be improper to obſerve in this place, that when a parcel is not fit for broad cloth it is applied to the manufacture of worſteds, the fineſt part to hoſe and to worſteds for mixing with ſilk: viz. poplins and tabinets from 1s. 3d. to 6s. 6d. per yard; crapes from 1s. 2d. to 4s. per yard.

The greater part of the combing wool is conſumed in worſted for making what is called new drapery in the Book of Rates, viz. ſhaloon from 6d. to 2s. 8d.; callimanco, 9d. to 2s. 2d.; everlaſting, 1s. 3d. to 4s.; ſatinet, 2s. to 4s.; camblet, 10d. to 1s. 8d.; ſtuffs, broad and narrow, ſingle and double, 6d. to 1s. 6d.; pluſh, 8d. to 3s. 6d. and worſted crapes, from 7d. to 9d. per yard.

In many of theſe branches Ireland excels: her poplins and tabinets are univerſally known and admired, particularly with reſpect to their colours.

The increaſed importation of ſilk into that kingdom will appear from the following comparative view.

The

1783 The quantity of ſilk imported into Ireland on an average of three years, ending the 25th of March, 1773.

	lbs.	oz.
Ribbands,	557	15½
Manufactured ſilk,	15,786	7½
Raw ſilk,	41,793	12½
Thrown dyed,	96	14
Ditto undyed,	44,650	13½

The quantity of ſilk imported into Ireland on an average of three years, ending the 25th of March, 1783.

	lbs.	oz.
Ribbands,	1,864	0
Manufactured ſilk,	22,626	3½
Raw ſilk,	51,029	1
Thrown, dyed,	273	4⅔
Ditto, undyed,	63,496	13⅓

We may here add a five years average quantity of raw and thrown ſilk imported into England, ending with the preſent year, with the amount of duties upon the great pound of 24 ounces.

	lb.		s.	d.			£.	s.	d.
Raw ſilk,	599,563	at	4	6	per lb.	is	134,901	16	6
Organzine, (16 oz.)	428,199	at	7	4	——	—	157,006	6	0
							291,908	2	6

The amount of the exportation of ſilks and mixtures of ſilks from Ireland, in this year, is as follows:

	lbs.	oz.
Ribbands,	514	14
Manufactured ſilk,	3,329	9
Thrown, dyed,	309	—
Manufactured, mixed,	2,064	12

The principal importation of manufactured ſilks into Ireland from Britain are gauzes, ribbands, alamodes, ſattins, plain and figured; perſians, ſarcenets, brocades of all kinds, and ſeveral other articles: the quantity of manufactured ſilk from other countries has been very trifling.

With reſpect to cotton wool, cotton yarn, muſlins, and manufactures and mixtures of cotton, we ſhall give a ſtatement of an average importation of them into the ſiſter kingdom of three years, ending the 25th of March, 1773, and the ſame at ten years diſtance, ending the 25th of March, 1783.

In 1773, cotton wool, 2,550 cwt. 3 qrs. 2¼ lbs.;—cotton yarn, 2,226⅔ lbs.;—muſlins, 194,987¾ yards;—cravats, 122 yards;—calicoes, ſtained, 3,999 yards;—fuſtians, 9,618 ends;—manufactures and mixtures of cotton, 18,278l. 16s. 2d. value.

In 1783, cotton wool, 3,236 cwt. 1 qr. 18 lbs.;—cotton yarn, 5,405½ lbs.;—muſlins, 55,151 yards;—calicoes, ſtained, 1,541½ yards;—ditto, white, 547⅓ yards;—fuſtians, 15,012⅔ yards;—manufactures and mixtures of cotton, 103,119l. 8s. 5½d. value.

No

A. D. 1783 No cotton yarn, or manufactures and mixtures of cotton, were exported previous to the year 1781: but the exportation of that and the two ſucceeding years is as follows:

	Cotton Yarn.		*Manufactures & mixtures of Cotton.*		*Fuſtians.*
Years.	*Lbs.*		*Value.*		*Yards.*
1781	239	—	£. 157 7 0	—	1,108
1782	8,798	—	414 7 6	—	—
1783	2,436	—	1,418 1 0	—	24,384

Ireland makes but little bar iron, and her importation of it has encreaſed near one-third in ten years, as may be ſeen from the following comparative averages of three years each.

The quantity of iron imported into Ireland, on an average of three years, ending the 25th of March, 1773, is as follows:

	Cwt.	*qrs.*	*lbs.*
From the Eaſt Country, — —	74,683	3	25½
From Britain, — — —	44,352	1	4½
Total,	119,036	1	4

Ditto, on an average of three years, ending the 25th of March, 1783.

	Cwt.	*qrs.*	*lbs.*
From the Eaſt Country, — —	98,488	1	9⅓
From Britain, — — —	74,730	0	4⅔
Total,	173,278	1	14

A comparative view of the export from Ireland of iron and iron ware for the years already ſpecified.

	Ironmong. W.	*Iron.*		*Hardware.*	*Ironmong. W.*	*Wrot. Iron.*	*Iron.*
YEARS.	VALUE.	QUANTITY.	YEARS.	VALUE.		QUANTITY.	
	£. s. d.	*T. C.*		*£. s. d.*	*£. s. d.*	*C. qr. lb.*	*T. C.*
1771	29 4 9	9 0	1781	16 3 0	253 6 3	25 0 0	0 0
1772	10 5 6	4 2	1782	22 11 4	2 19 0	75 3 7	0 0
1773	22 13 10	2 4	1783	213 9 6	85 3 9	359 2 0	8 1

The imports into Ireland for this year, ending the 25th of March, 1783, of iron and iron ware, is as follows, viz. hardware to the value of 21,773l. 2s. 10½d.;—iron, 164,187 cwt. 1 qr.;—579,833 knives;—9,797 mermits;—748 pots;—14,865 razors;—ſciſſars, 757 groſe, 9 dozens;—ſcythes, 4,089 dozens;—ſmall parcels, 24,473l. 17s. 5½d. value;—iron ore, 323 tons.

Almoſt the whole of theſe articles were imported from Britain except iron, which came from ſeveral countries in the following quantities.

	Cwt.	*qrs.*	*lbs.*		*Cwt.*	*qrs.*	*lbs.*
From England,	61,943	2	0	From Denmark and Norway,	1,152	0	14
—— Scotland,	3,144	1	0	—— Eaſt Country,	63	0	0
—— Guernſey,	40	3	7	—— Germany,	525	0	0
—— Jerſey,	136	2	14	—— Flanders,	728	2	14
—— Sweden,	83,489	3	14	—— New York,	90	0	0
—— Ruſſia,	12,873	1	21				

Since

1783 Since the heavy duty was laid on glaſs in Britain, Ireland has made an extraordinary progreſs in that manufacture; though, for ſome time, her imports of this article muſt be very conſiderable.

The average account of glaſs imported for three years, ending the 25th of March in this year, is as follows: 42,504$\frac{2}{3}$ dozens of bottles;—2,067$\frac{2}{3}$ caſe bottles;—22,248 drinking glaſſes;—4,524 vials;—3,675l. 11s. 9$\frac{1}{2}$d. worth of glaſs ware.

The export of ditto for this year was, 468 dozen of bottles;—9,910 drinking glaſſes.

The importation of ſtockings into Ireland in this year.

	Pairs.
Cotton,	23,744
Silk,	1,042
Silk and Thread,	192
Silk and Worſted,	580
Thread,	60,570
Woollen,	1,318
Worſted,	8,944

The exportation of ſtockings from Ireland in the ſame period,

	Dozen.	Pairs.
Thread,	79	3
Woollen,	259	0
Worſted,	393	0

The average import of hats into Ireland of three years, ending the 25th of March in the preſent year, amounts to 2,012.

The export of the ſame article from thence during the preſent and the two ſucceeding years is as follows: viz. in 1781, 1,404;—in 1782, 450;—in 1783, 3,211.

Whereby it appears that the exportation exceeds the importation of this article.

The imports of upholſtery into Ireland, in this year, amounts to 8,289l. 2s. 10$\frac{1}{2}$d.; and the exports to 630l. 18s.

The increaſing importation of pot aſhes into Ireland, proves the encreaſe of the linen manufacture, of which it is ſuch an eſſential article: in the year, ending the 25th of March, 1783, the importation from all parts amounted to 130,893 cwt. 1 qr. 21 lbs. which being valued at 25s. per cwt. amounts to 163,616l. 15s. 11d. The average account, however, of the importation of this article, for three years, ending at the ſame date, amounts to no more than 81,028 cwt. 1 qr. 12 lb.; though that is one-third more than the average importation of three years, ending the 25th of March, 1773.

Books and paper were imported into Ireland to the following amount, on an average of three years, ending the 25th of March, 1783, viz. 207l. 14s. 8d$\frac{1}{4}$d. worth of bound books;—271 cwt. 1 qr. 10 lbs. of unbound ditto;—85,257 preſſing leaves of paper;—4,772 printing reams of ditto;—5,749 writing reams of ditto.

The quantity of books and paper exported from Ireland, in this year, was 174 cwt. 3 qrs. 14 lbs. of unbound books;—302 reams of writing paper;—98 reams of brown paper.

The

A. D. 1783

The tillage of Ireland is well known to be greatly encreaſed, and that her improvements in agriculture are very conſiderable; it is remarkable, therefore, that her importation of beer ſhould increaſe, as it appears to have done from the following comparative view of the imports and exports of that article.

The quantity of beer imported into and exported from Ireland, on an average of three years, ending the 25th of March, 1773, amounted to 45,585½ barrels imported, and 3,550⅓ ditto exported.

The quantity of beer imported and exported on an average of a ſimilar period, ending the 25th of March 1783, was 54,546⅔ barrels imported, and 959 ditto exported.

Within theſe ten years Ireland has become an exporter of corn to a conſiderable amount, as will appear by the following accounts.

An account of corn and meal imported into Ireland on an average of three years, ending the 25th of March 1773.

	Qrs.	*Buſhels.*		*Cwt.*	*qrs.*	*lbs.*
Barley and malt,	28,320	4	Flour,	61,127	1	21
Beans and peas,	1,204	0		*Barrels.*		
Oats,	742	4	Oatmeal,	9,906⅔		
Wheat,	22,824	4	Wheat Meal,	2,457½		

An account of corn and meal exported from Ireland, on the ſame average.

	Qrs.	*Buſhels.*		*Cwt.*	*qrs.*	*lbs.*
Barley and malt,	3,222	4½	Flour,	151	3	9⅓
Beans and peas,	194	1½		*Barrels.*		
Oats,	11,478	2	Oatmeal,	15,787⅓		
Wheat,	1,011⅓	0	Groats,	14½		
Rye,	17	0				

An account of corn and meal imported into Ireland, on an average of three years, ending the 25th of March, 1783.

	Qrs.	*Buſhels.*		*Cwt.*	*qrs.*	*lbs.*
Barley and malt,	38,550	4	Flour,	22,208	0	25¾
Beans and peas,	411	2⅔		*Barrels.*		
Oats,	490	2½	Oatmeal,	3,466⅙		
Wheat,	649	2				

An account of corn and meal exported from Ireland, on an average of the ſame period.

	Qrs.	*Buſhels.*		*Cwt.*	*qrs.*	*lbs.*
Barley and malt,	9,848	2½	Flour,	85,284	3	11⅔
Beans and peas,	1,645	3¼		*Barrels.*		
Oats,	53,285	6⅔	Groats,	7½		
Wheat,	30,123	6⅔	Oatmeal,	11,577¼		
			Wheat meal,	66⅔		

1783 An account of goods and merchandize, being the growth, product, or manufacture of Aſia, imported into Great Britain, and from thence exported to Ireland, for one year, ending the 25th of March, 1783.

DENOMINATIONS.	QUANTITY. *Lbs.*	*Yards.*	VALUE. £.	*s.*	*d.*
Stained Callico,	—	1,203	300	15	0
White ditto,	—	480	96	0	0
Muſlin,	—	37,272	6,522	12	0
India Silks and Stuffs,	—	—			
Drugs,	—	—	9,121	2	4
Cinnamon,	634	—	252	8	0
Cloves,	561	—	280	10	0
Mace,	788	—	656	13	4
Nutmegs,	5,388	—	2,694	0	0
Pepper,	62,719	—	4,181	5	4
Piemento,	2,082	—	104	2	0
Rice,	1,106	—	8	17	9
Saltpetre,	186,515	—	4,163	5	7½
China raw Silks,	32,656	—	32,656	0	0
Bohea Tea,	1,478,080	—	147,808	0	0
Green ditto,	570,838	—	171,251	8	0

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
Total value of Aſiatic merchandize imported from Great Britain in 1781,	382,152	7	1
Ditto, in 1782,	293,720	15	6½
Ditto, in 1783,	380,096	19	4½
Total value of the three years,	1,055,970	2	0

To prove the very eſſential injury done to the revenues by ſmuggling, the following account of tea imported annually into Europe was publiſhed about this time.

	Pounds Weight.
By the Engliſh,	6,000,000
By Foreigners,	13,000,000
Total,	19,000,000

Above two-thirds of the whole were proved to be conſumed in Great Britain and Ireland.

The laſt ſeaſon 14,000,000 lbs. of tea, beſides ſilks, nankeens, &c. were exported from China to Europe in 16 foreign ſhips, viz. 8 Portugueſe, 1 Tuſcan, 4 Danes, and 3 Swedes, great part of which was ſmuggled into theſe kingdoms.

About 40 foreign ſhips ſailed for the Eaſt Indies and China in 1782 and 1783, with the intention of returning to Europe and America in 1784, laden chiefly with tea; the profits of which voyages would in a great meaſure depend on Britiſh ſmuggling.

A. D.
1783

EXPORTS from IRELAND to ENGLAND for one Year, ending the 25th of March 1783, diſtinguiſhing each principal Article, and ſpecifying its Value.

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
Bacon -	4,585	11	10½	Hides -	67,497	0	0
Beer - -	44	6	8	Iron - -	51	1	9
Beef -	102,744	15	0	Ironmonger's ware -	59	0	0
Bottles of glaſs -	7	10	0	Kelp - -	1,842	0	0
Boards, barrels -	22	10	0	Lead ore -	0	15	7
Books, bound and unbound	184	13	9	Linen cloth -	948,180	9	4
Bread -	278	17	0	Meal - -	4,614	12	0
Bullocks and cows -	800	0	0	Ox bones and guts	137	6	8
Barrels, empty -	125	0	0	Pork - -	61,283	14	0
Butter -	217,743	10	0	Rabbits furs -	1,384	15	0
Candles - -	131	1	8	Rape ſeed -	5,334	17	6
Cheeſe - -	85	3	9	Salt - -	5	0	0
Coaches & coachmakers' work	40	0	0	Silk, manufactured	1,145	0	0
Copper ore -	132	2	6	Skins - -	25,492	12	9
Corn - -	37,146	16	6	Soap -	223	0	0
Feathers -	90	10	0	Tallow -	62,081	0	0
Fiſh - -	1,264	1	2½	Tongues, -	577	16	0
Flax ſeed, Iriſh -	63	0	0	Wooden ware -	70	0	0
Glue - -	1,243	19	2	Wool -	1,031	16	3
Haberdaſhery ware -	1	14	11	Linen yarn -	204,016	10	0
Hair - -	174	0	0	Cotton yarn -	121	16	0
Hogs - -	642	0	0	Worſted ditto -	99,627	0	0
Hog's lard -	5,362	10	0	Small parcels -	5,916	13	0
Horſes - -	222	0	0				
Horns - -	563	4	10	Total,	1,865,392	14	8

IMPORTS into IRELAND.

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
Ale - -	2,669	7	8	Brimſtone -	571	13	4
Apparel - -	254	15	10	Candlewick -	1,594	10	7½
Arms - -	1,039	4	7	Cards, wool -	386	9	4
Bacon - -	40	0	10	Chalk -	2,241	1	3
Bark -	30,946	2	6	Cheeſe -	5,440	16	10½
Battery -	8,400	12	0	Chocolate -	1	10	0
Beer - -	51,505	2	1	Coaches, chaiſe, &c.	3,421	15	0
Books -	2,414	10	4	Coals -	165,213	12	6
Bullion, ſilver -	6,513	8	4	Coffee -	4,823	15	0
Berries, Juniper -	104	15	0	Copper plates and bricks	7,253	2	6
Bottles of glaſs -	6,656	12	0	Cordage -	524	18	8
Braſs ſhruff -	202	15	0	Cork - -	77	17	6
Bricks - -	334	10	0	Corn -	28,024	16	5

IMPORTS CONTINUED.

	£.	s.	d.
Drapery -	311,563	14	0
Drugs -	9,120	19	10
Dying ſtuffs -	40,543	12	5¾
Earthen ware -	19,433	13	5½
Elephant's teeth -	97	5	0
Fans - -	61	5	0
Fiſh - -	1,039	18	0
Flax, dreſſed and undreſſed	3,527	2	10¾
Flints - -	15	6	0
Furs - -	336	4	10
Fuſtians -	3,888	13	1½
Glaſs - -	7,413	10	3½
Gloves -	111	9	0
Grindſtones -	39	3	4
Groceries -	10,981	14	3
Gunpowder -	1,287	16	3
Haberdaſhery -	15,692	13	9½
Hair, goats and camels	651	13	6
Hats -	2,934	15	0
Hemp, undreſſed and ſeed	1,998	6	0
Hops -	56,767	16	3
Horſes -	150	0	0
Hardware -	21,758	5	6½
Ironmongers' ware	86,839	15	11½
Iron ore -	242	5	0
Ivory, wrought -	381	3	0
Lace - -	389	8	0
Lamp black -	218	5	1
Latten - -	48	7	6
Lead - -	10,198	6	9
Lead ore -	40	0	0
Lime, lemon and orange juice	88	4	0
Linen—Britiſh, damaſk, diaper, lawns, muſlins, &c.	27,595	7	11½
Linſeed -	2,040	12	10½
Linen, cotton, and ſilk, Britiſh manufacture	118,921	3	10
Mats - -	215	10	8
Meal - -	1,821	2	8
Millinery ware -	6,931	11	6½
Mill ſtones -	75	0	0
Oakum -	640	10	11¼
Oranges and lemons	52	13	5¼

	£.	s.	d.
Oil - -	1,159	10	11¼
Printing ſtuffs -	403	13	9
Paper -	39,191	3	8
Paſteboard -	941	0	0
Pewter -	4,700	0	0
Pictures -	332	0	7½
Pitch - -	694	13	6
Plates of tin -	2,459	16	8
Pot aſhes -	18,547	15	3¾
Quilts - -	70	0	0
Ribband ſilk -	3,707	10	0
Rezin -	83	6	3
Sadler's ware -	314	12	2
Salt -	51,227	5	3
Saltpetre -	8,326	11	3
Seeds -	6,275	13	10½
Sider -	1,406	16	0½
Silk, manufactured	50,214	7	6
—— raw -	32,656	0	0
—— thrown,	63,736	17	2¼
Slates -	745	3	4
Skins -	925	2	4½
Snuff - -	59	17	6
Soap - -	6	9	8¼
Soap aſhes -	10	0	0
Spirits,—brandy -	141	19	5½
————geneva			
————rum -	7,540	1	1½
Stationary ware -	357	1	5
Steel - -	507	16	11¼
Stockings -	11,369	2	10
Sugar—candy -	16	0	0
——— loaf -	56,116	17	6
——— Muſcovade	200,530	5	1½
——— ſmall parcels	2,639	16	0
Sword blades -	118	2	0
Sword cutlers' ware	466	19	4
Tar - -	590	2	0
Tea -	319,059	8	8
Tobacco -	31,566	0	6
Tow -	400	0	0
Toys -	7,973	7	11
Twine -	64	17	6

Tiles

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IMPORTS CONTINUED.

	£.	s.	d.
Tiles	82,017	0	0
Tin	906	1	3
Velvet	24	0	0
Vinegar	83	11	10½
Upholſtery ware	6,314	10	3
Walnuts, &c.	200	16	3
Wax, bees	348	14	6
Whalebone	67	8	9
Wine—French	3,231	5	0
—— Port	303	0	0
Wine—Rheniſh	1	0	0
—— Spaniſh	40	0	0
Wood	4,791	12	0
Wire	5,354	18	4¾
Wool—cotton, eſtridge, & Spaniſh	13,410	19	9
Yarn	4,531	3	9
—— Small parcels	13,066	13	6
Total,	2,148,782	12	3

EXPORTS from IRELAND into SCOTLAND.

	£.	s.	d.
Beef	14,437	15	0
Books	46	5	0
Bread	22	4	0
Bullocks and cows	1,165	0	0
Barrels, empty	10	5	0
Butter	10,315	15	0
Candles	2	5	10
Cheeſe	5	0	0
Corn—barley, malt & oats	3,844	3	0
Feathers	11	15	0
Hams	491	8	9
Herrings	106	10	0
Glue	33	6	8
Glaſs ware	11	0	0
Hogs lard	93	3	9
Horſes	2,256	0	0
Horns, ox and cows	175	16	8
Hides, tanned & untanned	6,191	13	0
Linen cloth	66,017	8	0
Meal,—flour and oats	3,043	4	0
Ox guts	4	6	8
Pork	1,777	17	0
Salt	3	15	0
Skins, calves	499	11	3
Soap	131	13	4
Starch	5	6	8
Tallow	1,253	7	6
Tongues	208	19	0
Yarn,—linen and worſted	17,922	10	9
——— Small parcels	810	6	3
Total,	123,897	12	1

IMPORTS from SCOTLAND into IRELAND.

	£.	s.	d.
Ale	127	6	8
Apparel	206	5	1
Bark	351	1	0
Beer	190	5	0
Books, bound & unbound	677	5	0
Bullion, ſilver	0	6	8
Bottles of glaſs	261	4	6
Bricks	2	12	0
Coaches, &c.	509	0	0
Coals	15,785	5	0
Corn	525	3	6
Drapery	1,534	13	6
Drugs	0	2	6
Dying ſtuffs	2,245	4	5
Earthen ware	60	1	9
Fiſh	1,548	11	0
Flax, undreſt	275	3	1½
Tuſteans	0	11	3

IMPORTS CONTINUED.

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
Glaſs caſes and ware	33	9	6	Seeds - -	425	6	4½
Gloves - -	5	8	0	Silk, manufactured	9,020	6	9
Hulled barley -	73	3	0	Sider - -	5	0	0
Haberdaſhery -	3,869	0	8½	Slates - -	27	13	4
Hats - -	13	10	0	Skins - -	145	9	3
Horſes -	1,920	0	0	Snuff - -	0	18	9
Hard ware -	12	3	4	Soap - -	553	7	1¼
Ironmonger's ware	2,909	7	11	Spirits, rum -	2,206	1	9
Ivory, wrought -	4	19	0	Starch - -	3	4	7
Lead, white -	6	13	4	Stationary ware -	0	8	0
Linen—Britiſh, cambricks, canvas, coloured & muſlins -	2,513	15	10	Steel - -	254	13	3
—— Kenting -	40,235	12	0	Stockings -	2,861	5	0
—— Lawns -	11,175	11	0	Sugar—Loaf -	3,113	5	0
—— Cotton and ſilk, Britiſh manufactures	5,388	14	6	—— Muſcovade	22,758	15	0
Linſeed -	301	10	0	—— Small parcels	0	15	0
Mats - -	1	1	4	Tar - -	286	16	0
Meal flour - -	868	4	0	Tobacco -	28,812	8	0
Millinery ware -	1,714	4	2	Toys - -	0	18	6
Oil - -	1,31	14	8	Tin - -	199	1	3
Painting ſtuffs -	10	6	8	Upholſtery ware	1,929	12	7½
Paper - -	1,078	8	0	Wine, Port -	35	0	0
Pitch - -	5	0	0	Wood -	806	8	1½
Plates of tin -	0	8	4	Wool, cotton -	376	15	0
Pot aſhes - -	23	2	6	Wire, latten -	3	0	0
Sadler's ware -	75	0	0	Yarn -	201	2	0
Salt - -	493	16	9	—— Small parcels	639	7	1
				Total,	171,670	14	7¼

Notwithſtanding Scotland is ſo great a linen country, it appears that the value of the linen ſhe takes from Ireland is above half of all her imports from that country. On the other hand, Ireland takes not much leſs of other ſorts of linens from Scotland, kenting alone amounting to forty thouſand two hundred and thirty-five pounds, and lawns to eleven thouſand one hundred and ſeventy-five pounds in this year. This proves, that different fabrics of the ſame manufacture may flouriſh in the neighbouring countries to the advantage of both. Between fifty and ſixty years ago, the annual exports from Ireland to Scotland were about eleven thouſand nine hundred pounds, above one half of which was oatmeal. The imports from Scotland were thirty-one thouſand ſeven hundred pounds, of which coals were above one-third; tobacco, ſeven thouſand eight hundred pounds; linen and kenting, three thouſand five hundred pounds.

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IMPORTS and EXPORTS, from CHRISTMAS 1782, to CHRISTMAS 1783.

COUNTRIES.	IMPORTS.			EXPORTS.		
Africa,	£. 47,860	12	9	£. 787,563	8	—
Canaries,	4,362	2	—	15,259	—	10
Denmark and Norway,	131,854	2	8	181,801	2	9
Eaſt Country,	830,428	8	3	152,819	14	8
Eaſt Indies,	1,301,495	13	3	701,455	18	8
Flanders,	1,112,467	17	7	1,051,427	15	5
France,	87,119	8	2	101,167	7	10
Germany,	684,110	14	8	1,259,752	15	7
Holland,	485,384	12	1	752,520	18	10
Ireland,	1,611,904	—	1	2,430,472	15	6
Iſle of Man,	13,738	1	10	26,526	11	—
Italy,	276,777	7	8	456,925	3	1
Madeira,	3,303	18	10	27,208	1	4
Portugal,	322,547	10	4	613,104	13	—
Ruſſia,	1,320,766	18	1	219,859	15	2
Spain,	422,486	5	3	594,045	19	6
Gibraltar,	56	6	1	77,389	6	6
Streights,	—	—	—	118,001	15	10
Sweden,	239,928	12	7	66,656	16	4
Turkey,	48,983	2	6	42,666	10	—
Venice,	50,125	7	5	26,655	5	3
Greenland,	35,014	16	6	147	15	4
Iſland of Alderney,	37	7	6	1,231	18	9
Iſland of Guernſey,	57,618	11	7	51,967	—	11
Iſland of Jerſey,	14,276	12	1	20,333	8	3
Iſland of Sark,	—	—	—	—	—	—
Canada,	81,290	—	1	391,345	8	2
Cape Breton,	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carolina,	77,740	11	3	250,381	10	—
Florida,	25,638	10	8	25,356	16	4
Georgia,	5,764	17	6	22,682	10	5
Hudſon's Bay,	7,554	19	1	7,098	18	—
New England,	26,526	4	9	202,555	17	—
Newfoundland,	60,247	12	1	160,254	12	—
New York,	102,778	12	10	603,152	3	—
Nova Scotia,	2,904	19	5	234,290	3	—
Pennſylvania,	30,853	18	2	245,258	1	8
Iſland of St. John, Gulf of St. Laurence,	—	—	—	—	—	—
Virginia & Maryland,	105,062	19	—	219,834	6	9
Anguilla,	10,680	16	3	—	—	—
Antigua,	77,912	7	1	157,490	7	6
Bahamas,	1,356	7	2	2,527	17	8
Barbadoes,	106,766	5	10	178,710	4	8
Bermuda,	11,308	2	4	95,109	14	1
Dominica,	80,701	7	5	42,830	12	3
Grenada,	224,399	12	9	53,463	9	4
Honduras Bay,	1,917	18	6	3,490	14	2
Jamaica,	1,688,394	19	—	1,057,588	6	7
Montſerrat,	39,166	15	6	13,686	11	10
Muſquito Shore,	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nevis,	35,564	13	1	11,913	16	1
St. Croix,	223	9	10	—	—	—
St. Euſtatius,	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Kitt's,	216,490	2	11	68,305	15	11
St. Lucia,	183,849	18	5	45,782	8	11
St. Thomas's,	8,713	19	8	58,740	9	10
St. Vincent's,	76,506	12	4	20,404	10	8
Tobago,	114,925	—	2	13,465	17	10
Tortola,	138,706	16	—	49,154	1	—
Demerara,	351	16	4	—	—	—
St. Domingo,	—	—	—	—	—	—
Surinam,	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Martin's,	1,071	14	9	31	15	—
Cape Francois,	6,509	19	8	—	—	—
Havannah,	2,072	4	3	—	—	—
New Orleans,	—	—	—	—	—	—
Buenos Ayres,	—	—	—	3,921	5	—
Northern Fiſhery,	163	18	6	—	—	—
Southern Fiſhery,	2,106	—	—	53	6	—
Foreign coin and bullion,	—	—	—	709,283	2	6
Prize goods,	463,362	14	4	725,665	10	5
Total,	13,122,235	6	8	15,450,778	1	11

An

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An authentic account of corn and grain exported from, and imported into England and Scotland this year.

EXPORTED.

1783.	Britiſh Qrs.	Foreign Qrs.
ENGLAND.		
Wheat, —	4,541	13,695
Wheat Flour, &c.	25,952	981
Rye, —	431	2,873
Malt, —	45,919	——
Barley, —	5,395	1,321
Oats, —	7,978	2,405
Oat-meal, —	1,193	——
Beans, —	10,164	27
Peas, —	2,701	——
SCOTLAND.		
Wheat, —	4,869	——
Wheat Flour,	1,904	——
Rye, —	60	——
Barley, —	1,383	——
Barley-meal, —	47	——
Oats, —	185	——
Oatmeal,	64	——
Peas and Beans,	67	——

IMPORTED.

1783.	Quarters.
ENGLAND.	
Wheat, —	484,921
Wheat Flour,	20,240
Rye, —	74,465
Rye Flour, —	124
Barley, —	87,884
Oats, —	166,222
Oat-meal, —	9
Beans, —	17,435
Peas, —	1,087
Indian corn, —	2
SCOTLAND.	
Wheat, —	78,844
Wheat Flour, —	178
Rye, —	6,706
Barley, —	57,030
Barley-meal,	12
Oats, —	61,504
Oatmeal, —	1,207
Peas, —	13,093

The bounties on corn and grain exported from England in the courſe of this year, amounted to 13,117l. 9s. 3½d.

The drawbacks, during the ſame period, were 461l. 11s. 3d.

The amount of the bounties paid on corn and grain exported from Scotland, during the ſame time, was 179l. 15s. 5d.

The duties on corn imported into England, was 17,062l. 9s. 2d.; and, in Scotland, they amounted to 3,547l. 4s. 3d.

The average prices of corn in England and Wales, by the ſtandard Wincheſter buſhel, for this year, was as follows:—

Wheat, 6s. 7d.; rye, 4s. 5½d.; barley, 3s. 9½d.; oats, 2s. 5¼d.; beans, 4s. 4¼d.

An account of the chriſtenings and burials within the bills of mortality in London, for this year.

Chriſtened, males	8,739	Buried, males	9,730
—— females	8,352	—— females	9,299
	17,091		19,029

The

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The following are the variations of the public funds during this year, with the higheſt and loweſt prices arranged oppoſite to each month.

	Bank Stock.	3 per cent. reduc	3 per cent. conſol	4 per cent. conſol	Long Ann.	Ann. 1778	South Sea Stock	S Sea Old Ann.	S Sea New Ann.	India Stock.	India Ann.	India Bonds.	Nav Bills.	Exchequer Bills.	Omni. Pre.
January,	121½	61¾	60⅞	87¾	18⅛	12⅞	—	68¼	—	140	—	——	7¼	4s. a 5s.	——
	135½	70¼	70½	87⅞	20½	14 15/16	—	—	—	140½	—	——	—	dif.	——
February,	133¾	68⅜	67¾	85⅞	20 1/16	13¾	—	68¼	—	143½	—	3 dif.	9⅜	2 a 3	——
	135	69⅛	68½	86	20¼	13 15/16	—	—	—	145¼	—	——	9½	dif.	——
March,	133⅛	68½	67⅞	86¼	20 3/16	13⅞	75¼	67¼	66⅛	141¼	—	——	9⅝	——	——
	134¾	68⅞	69¾	87½	20 15/16	14⅛	76	67⅞	66⅞	141¾	—	——	—	——	——
April,	131	61½	63⅜	85	19 1/16	13¾	75	—	66¾	137¼	63⅜	1 dif.	9½	2 dif.	6½
	133¼	67⅜	68⅝	88⅝	20⅝	14⅛	76	—	67⅛	138½	63¾	10 p.	11	12	7½
May,	130½	65¼	66⅝	84¾	20⅛	14 1/16	74½	—	66¼	138	65¼	12 p.	9¼	1 a 4	4½
	133¾	67½	68	88⅝	20¾	14 3/16	76	—	67⅛	138¾	67⅞	5 dif.	10⅛	dif.	8½
June,	129¼	65¼	66½	83⅞	20⅛	14¼	75	—	65	137¾	61¼	1 a 6	9⅞	1 a 3	3
	131¼	66⅞	67½	85⅜	20⅜	14⅜	—	—	66¾	139¼	62¾	dif.	11¾	dif.	5¾
July,	123½	61¾	61⅞	80¼	19	13¼	—	—	60¾	132	57½	2 dif.	10¾	4 dif.	1 par
	128¼	65⅜	66⅞	84	20¾		—	—	64⅝	138½	61	25 p.	12¾		3½ d.
Auguſt,	126½	64⅛	62½	82¾	19⅛	13¼	70	—	61⅝	133½	60⅛	8 dif.	11⅜	2	¼ pr.
	128	65	64¼	84⅝	19⅜	13⅜	71	—	63½	139	59½	22 p.	12	10	1½ pr
Septemb.	126½	64⅞	58	82½	18¼	12⅞	71	—	61⅛	139	59⅝	16 d.	11½	3 a 8	6 dif.
	128½	66	64⅞	84¾	19⅜	13½	—	—	64½	143	61⅜	28 d.	14	dif.	½ par
October,	116	56¾	57¼	75	17¼	12¼	—	56⅛	56½	138½	55	7 a 32	12	9 a 14	——
	127½	59¾	60⅞	80¾	18½	13	—	—	60⅝	143	58¼	dif.	13⅛	dif.	——
Novemb.	117	57⅞	57⅞	75¾	17½	12⅞	65½	57¾	58½	120	54¾	9 a 28	12¾	7 a 12	——
	118¾	60½	60⅞	77¾	18⅝	13¼	—	59½	60¼	139	56¼	dif.	13¾	dif.	——
Decemb.	112¼	55⅞	56¾	71½	17¾	12¾	68	55½	56¾	120	52¾	26	13½	4	——
	115¼	57⅞	58½	75½	17	13	69	57⅞	57⅞	127	54¼	80	17¾	10	——

The following bills relative to trade and commerce were paſſed in this year.

A bill to permit the importation of all ſorts of corn, grain and meal, upon the payment of the low duties, for a limited time.

To continue an act, entitled, "An act more effectually to prevent his Majeſty's enemies from being ſupplied with ſhips or veſſels from Great Britain."

To continue ſeveral laws relating to the regulating fees of officers of the cuſtoms and naval officers in America;—to the allowing the exportation of certain quantities of wheat and other articles, to his Majeſty's ſugar colonies in America;—to the permitting the exportation of tobacco pipe clay from this kingdom to the Britiſh ſugar colonies or plantations in the Weſt Indies;—and to the repealing the duties upon pot and pearl aſhes, and upon wood and wood aſhes, imported into Great Britain, and for granting other duties in lieu thereof.

For continuing ſeveral acts paſſed for the better regulation of laſtage and ballaſtage in the river Thames.

For allowing the importation of rice, paddy, Indian corn, Indian meal, and maize, free from duty, for a limited time.

For further continuing an act for allowing the importation of fine organzine Italian thrown ſilk in any ſhips or veſſels, for a limited time.

To amend an act, entitled, "An act for the more effectually ſecuring the duties upon tobacco; to prohibit the importation of currants into Great Britain in ſmall packages; to repeal

1783 ſuch part of the proviſo in the act of the eighteenth year of the reign of his preſent Majeſty, as permits Portugal and Spaniſh wines and other wines, except French wines, to be imported in ſmall caſks for private uſe; and for taking off the inland duty payable upon the importation of cocoa nuts into this kingdom, and upon the exportation thereof as merchandize.

For the more effectual draining and preſerving certain lands and grounds within the level of Hatfield Chace and parts adjacent, in the counties of York, Lincoln and Nottingham.

For allowing the importation of goods from Europe in neutral ſhips into the iſlands of St. Chriſtopher, Nevis, Montſerrat, Dominica, St. Vincent, Grenada and the Grenadines, and of goods, the produce or manufacture of the ſaid iſlands, and of Tobago and St. Lucia, from thence into this kingdom, in ſuch ſhips, upon payment of the Britiſh Plantation duties, for a limited time: for permitting certain goods, the produce of thoſe iſlands, ſecured in warehouſes in this kingdom, to be taken out, on payment of the Britiſh Plantation duties, and to cancel certain bonds entered into for payment of the duties due thereon: for further continuing certain temporary acts for the encouragement of trade; and to repeal an act, made in the 22d year of his Majeſty's reign, for allowing the importation of goods the growth of St. Chriſtopher, Nevis and Montſerrat, into any of his Majeſty's dominions in Europe or America.

For rendering more effectual the proviſions contained in an act of the 13th year of King George the Firſt, for preventing frauds and abuſes in the dying trade.

For rendering the payment of creditors more equal and expeditious in that part of Great Britain called Scotland; and for making perpetual ſo much of an act, made in the 12th of his preſent Majeſty's reign, as relates to bills and promiſſory notes.

For granting a bounty upon the exportation of Britiſh and Iriſh buckrams and tillettings, Britiſh and Iriſh linens, Britiſh calicoes and cottons, or cotton mixed with linen, printed, painted, ſtained or dyed in Great Britain.

To repeal ſo much of two acts as prohibits trade and intercourſe with the United States of America.

For removing and preventing all doubts which have ariſen, or might ariſe, concerning the excluſive rights of the Parliament and courts of Ireland in matters of legiſlation and judicature, &c. &c.

To amend and render more effectual ſeveral acts for making a navigable canal from the Trent to the Merſey; and a branch from the ſaid canal to Frog Hall, and a rail way from thence to or near Caldon, in the county of Stafford.

To diſcharge and indemnify the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the Eaſt Indies, from all damages, intereſt and loſſes, in reſpect to their not making regular payment of certain ſums due, and to become due to the public; and to allow further time for ſuch payment; and to enable the Company to borrow a certain ſum of money; and to make a dividend of 4l. per cent. to the proprietors, at Midſummer, 1783.

For making and maintaining a navigable canal from the river Thames or Iſis, at or near Leachlade, to join and communicate with the Stroudwater canal at Wallbridge, near the town of Stroud; and alſo a collateral cut from the ſaid canal at or near Siddington, to or near the town of Cirenceſter, in the counties of Glouceſter and Wilts.

For preventing certain inſtruments from being required from ſhips belonging to the United States of America; and to give to his Majeſty, for a limited time, certain powers for the better carrying on trade and commerce between the ſubjects of his Majeſty's dominions and the inhabitants of the ſaid United States.

For

For empowering perſons navigating veſſels upon the river Trent, between a place called Wilden Ferry, in the counties of Derby and Leiceſter, or one of them, and the town of Burton upon Trent, in the county of Stafford, to haul the ſame with horſes.

For altering and varying the powers of an act for making the river Douglas, alias Aſland, navigable from the river Ribble to Wigan, in the county palatine of Lancaſter; and for enabling the Company of Proprietors of the Leeds and Liverpool canals, incorporated by an act paſſed in the 10th year of his preſent Majeſty's reign, to purchaſe the ſaid river navigation; for amending the ſaid laſt-mentioned act for incorporating and conſolidating the ſaid two navigations; and for other purpoſes.

For improving the navigation of the river Trent, from a place called Wilden Ferry, in the counties of Derby and Leiceſter, or one of them, to Gainſborough, in the county of Lincoln; and for empowering perſons, navigating veſſels thereon, to haul the ſame with horſes.

For repealing an act, entitled, " An act for charging a ſtamp duty upon inland bills of exchange, promiſſory notes, or other notes payable otherwiſe than on demand," and for granting new ſtamp duties on bills of exchange, promiſſory and other notes; and alſo ſtamp duties on receipts.

For enabling the commiſſioners of ſupply of the ſeveral counties therein mentioned, in Scotland, to aſſeſs and levy certain ſums for relieving ſuch of the inhabitants of the ſaid counties as have been reduced to indigence by the failure of the laſt year's crop of corn; and to enable his Majeſty, during the next receſs of Parliament, by and with the advice of his Privy Council, to permit the importation of corn into the ſaid counties for a limited time, and in ſhips or veſſels belonging to any ſtate in amity with his Majeſty, navigated by foreign ſeamen.

For allowing the drawback of the whole duty of cuſtoms upon the exportation of rice.

For altering the duties and drawbacks upon plain muſlins, unrated muſlins and calicoes, and Nanquin cloths.

For repealing ſo much of an act, as took off the duties payable upon the importation of that ſpecies of blue called ſmalts; and for granting relief to the owners and proprietors of tobacco of the growth of Scotland, which ſhall not be worth the duties impoſed thereon by an act of the laſt ſeſſion of Parliament.

For the better preventing frauds in the landing and removing of wines in this kingdom; and to prevent the relanding of refined ſugar, entered for exportation, to obtain the drawback or bounty.

For the more effectual encouragement of the manufactures of flax and cotton in Great Britain.

For the further encouraging the growth of coffee and cocoa nuts, in his Majeſty's iſlands and plantations in America.

For preventing the exportation of corn, grain, or meal, with a bounty, during the operation of two acts, paſſed in this preſent ſeſſion of Parliament, for allowing the importation of corn.

For making and maintaining a navigable canal from a place near Hider's Green, in the county of Stafford, to Broadwater fire engine, and ſix collateral cuts from the ſame to ſeveral coal mines; and alſo a navigable canal from or near the town of Birmingham, to join the Coventry canal, at or near Fazeley, in the pariſh of Tamworth, in the ſaid county of Stafford, with a collateral cut to the lower part of the ſaid town of Birmingham.

A. D. 1783 For the ſale of prize goods ſecured in warehouſes in this kingdom, for which the duties are not paid, or the goods exported, within a limited time.

For granting to his Majeſty ſeveral additional and new duties upon ſtamped vellum, parchment and paper; and alſo for repealing certain exemptions from the ſtamp duties.

For granting to his Majeſty a ſtamp duty on licences to be taken out by certain perſons uttering or vending medicines: and certain ſtamp duties on all medicines ſold under ſuch licences, or under the authority of his Majeſty's letters patent.

For taking away from the commiſſioners of exciſe in England and Scotland, the power of compounding with perſons making malt not to ſell, but to be conſumed in their own private families.

For repealing an act, intituled, "An Act for veſting the Fort of Senegal, and its dependencies, in the Company of Merchants trading to Africa:" and to veſt, as well the ſaid Fort and its dependencies, as all other the Britiſh forts and ſettlements upon the coaſt of Africa, lying between the port of Sallee and Cape Rouge, together with all the property, eſtate and effects of the Company of Merchants trading to Africa, in or upon the ſaid forts, ſettlements, and their dependencies, in his Majeſty; and for ſecuring, extending and improving the trade to Africa; and for veſting James Fort, in the river Gambia, and its dependencies, and all other the Britiſh forts and ſettlements between the port of Sallee and Cape Rouge, in the Company of Merchants trading to Africa; and for ſecuring and regulating the trade to Africa.

For appointing and enabling commiſſioners further to examine, take, and ſtate the public accounts of the kingdom.

For the more effectual preventing the illegal importation of foreign ſpirits, and for putting a ſtop to the private diſtillation of Britiſh made ſpirituous liquors; for explaining part of the act impoſing a duty on male ſervants; to amend and rectify a miſtake in an act of the laſt ſeſſion of Parliament, with reſpect to the removal of tea from one part of the kingdom to the other parts thereof; and for preventing vexatious actions againſt officers of exciſe, acting in purſuance of the authority given by exciſe ſtatutes.

SUPPLIES granted by Parliament for this year:—	£.	s.	d.
For 110,000 ſeamen, including 25,291 marines, —	5,406,000	0	0
For the ordinary of the navy, &c. — — —	451,989	12	11
Towards building and repairing ſhips of war, &c. —	311,843	1	4
For the charge of the office of ordnance for the land ſervice, &c.	630,612	12	10
Ordnance extraordinaries of 1782, — —	819,259	2	9
For compenſation to proprietors of lands near Chatham, —	4,949	11	5
For the pay of the land-forces, including invalids, &c. —	1,356,919	10	2¾
Extraordinaries of the army, — —	1,259,875	13	7
For maintaining guards and garriſons in and out of the kingdom,	1,626,108	10	5
For the pay of the general and ſtaff-officers, &c. — —	26,454	2	1
For the militia, and four regiments of fencible men in North Britain,	165,418	10	0
For the charge of four regiments of foot and additionals, from Ireland,	41,140	16	2
For the charge of five corps formed in North America, —	63,126	17	4
On account of the reduced officers of his Majeſty's land forces, &c.	133,522	13	10
Carried over,	12,297,220	14	10¾

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	£.	s.	d.
Brought over,	12,297,220	14	10¾
For allowances to ſeveral officers and private gentlemen of the two reduced troops of horſe-guards, &c. — —	574	18	4
To ſeveral officers late in the ſervice of the States-General, —	3,513	9	0
For half-pay to certain provincial corps, — —	15,000	0	0
For one regiment of light dragoons, and ſeven battalions of foot in the Eaſt Indies, for 1783,	15,074	10	0
For the charge of eight battalions of foot, — —	40,241	14	0
For extra charge of forces ſerving abroad, — —	136,888	11	6
For the charge of out-penſioners of Chelſea Hoſpital, &c. —	96,972	17	11
For 200 letter-men of Chelſea Hoſpital, — —	1,830	0	0
For the charge of three Hanoverian battalions at Gibraltar, —	28,917	11	0½
For ditto of two ditto, in Great Britain, — —	9,320	13	6
For the charge of 13,472 Heſſian troops and ſubſidy, —	367,203	9	10
For ditto of 2,257 men of the troops of Hanau and ſubſidy, —	65,158	12	8¼
To make good the deficiencies in ſums voted for ditto in 1781,	3,317	14	9½
For the charge of 4,300 Brunſwickers, — —	93,947	15	8
Ditto of one regiment of Waldeck, and ſubſidy, —	17,498	3	2¾
For a corps of foot of Anhalt Zerbſt, including artillery, —	23,818	11	11¼
For ditto of 1,781 troops of the Margrave of Anſpach, &c. —	51,501	19	1½
Deficiency in votes for ditto in 1782, — —	6,419	9	9
For artillery for the foreign troops, — —	27,683	14	0
For repairing, &c. Britiſh forts and ſettlements on the coaſt of Africa,	13,000	0	0
To the Levant Company, — — —	5,000	0	0
On account of new roads and bridges in the Highlands of North Britain,	5,329	10	6
Towards carrying on the buildings at Somerſet Houſe, —	25,000	0	0
Towards rebuilding Newgate, — — —	10,000	0	0
To the commiſſioners of public accounts, — —	7,500	0	0
To the officers of the board of works, for ſurveying the loſſes occaſioned by the riots in 1780, — —	1,006	15	0
For the relief of certain American civil officers, &c. —	76,849	16	6
Towards enabling his Majeſty to make a ſeparate eſtabliſhment for the Prince of Wales, — — —	60,000	0	0
To make good to his Majeſty the like ſum iſſued by his Majeſty's orders, in purſuance of the addreſſes of the Houſe of Commons,	11,236	4	0
To Mr. Duncan Campbell, for employing convicts in heaving ballaſt on the Thames, — — —	14,452	17	3
For the civil eſtabliſhment of the iſland of St. John, —	3,150	0	0
Ditto of Georgia, — — — —	3,340	0	0
Ditto of Nova Scotia, — — —	5,943	9	5
Ditto of Eaſt Florida, — — —	3,950	0	0
Ditto of Weſt Florida, — — —	4,970	4	1
Ditto of Senegambia, — — —	2,450	0	0
Carried forward,	13,555,283	7	11½

	£.	s.	d.
Brought over,	13,555,283	7	11½
Towards diſcharging certain Exchequer bills,	1,500,000	0	0
For diſcharging certain other Exchequer bills, &c.	1,495,000	0	0
For ditto, on the vote of credit of 1782,	1,000,000	0	0
For diſcharging certain other Exchequer bills,	405,000	0	0
To make good deficiency of annuity fund of 1758,	46,444	0	11
Ditto of annuity fund, 1778,	160,191	8	8¼
Ditto of annuity fund, 1779,	63,888	8	7½
Ditto of annuity fund, 1780,	141,871	7	7¾
Ditto of annuity fund, 1782,	138,682	17	4
Ditto of grants for 1782,	282,502	8	2
Vote of credit,	1,000,000	0	0
Total Supplies,	19,788,863	19	4

The WAYS and MEANS for raiſing the foregoing ſupplies.

	£.	s.	d.
Duty on malt,	750,000	0	0
Land tax at 4s.	2,000,000	0	0
By loans and Exchequer bills, to be charged on next aids,	1,000,000	0	0
By annuities and lottery,	12,480,000	0	0
By Exchequer bills,	1,500,000	0	0
By monies out of the ſinking fund,	2,200,000	0	0
By ſavings in the hands of the paymaſter-general of the army,	68,745	0	0
By ditto, in the hands of ditto,	8,647	15	4
By ditto, paid into the Exchequer by Sir R. Taylor,	1,843	11	10
Total of Ways and Means,	20,009,236	7	2
Total amount of Supplies granted,	19,788,863	19	4
Exceſs of Ways and Means,	220,372	7	10

The following additional duties and new taxes were impoſed this year:—

	£.	s.	d.
Stamp duty on bills of exchange for 1782, doubled,	56,000	0	0
The ſame extended to foreign bills, promiſſory notes, &c.	44,000	0	0
Additional ſtamp duties on probates of wills and legacies,	40,000	0	0
Ditto on bonds, law proceedings, admiſſions to the inns of court, &c.	60,000	0	0
Ditto on ſtage-coaches and diligences,	25,000	0	0
A new ſtamp duty of 2d. upon receipts for 2l. and not amounting to 20l.; and of 4d. if amounting to or exceeding 20l.	250,000	0	0
Ditto of 6s. upon every agreement; of 2s. 6d. upon any inventory or catalogue; and of 5s. upon every award,	10,000	0	0
Duty on turnpike roads and incloſure bills,	20,000	0	0
Carried forward,	505,000	0	0

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	£.	s.	d.
Brought over,	505,000	0	0
A ſtamp duty of 3d. upon entry of any burial, marriage, birth or, chriſtening, ——— ——— ———	15,000	0	0
Ditto of 20s. for a licence to perſons vending medicines; and 3d. upon every box, packet, or bottle of medicines, under the value of 2s. 6d.; 6d. when of 2s. 6d. value; and 1s. when of 5s. and upwards, —	15,000	0	0
A duty of 4s. annually upon every waggon, &c. with three or four wheels, and of 2s. annually when with two wheels, —	25,000	0	0
Total of additional and new taxes,	560,000	0	0
Intereſt of the loan of twelve millions,	560,000	0	0

1784 This year opens with another fruitleſs attempt to arrange the affairs of India.—The general objects to be provided for in the formation of a ſyſtem for India, were the civil and military government, the revenues, and the commerce. The queſtion reſpecting to whom the territorial right of the Eaſt India Company's poſſeſſions belonged, had never been finally ſettled: there were claims to be aſcertained, and intereſts to be divided. The claims of preſcription and general juſtice were to be attended to, and the happineſs of the natives to be conſidered. Beſides, it was a matter of ſerious reflection, what would be the probable effects of the government of India on the government of Britain; how it might affect our conſtitution in point of influence: and by what means it might add to the ſtrength, without endangering the rights of the nation.

In order to ſecure theſe points, the following principles were laid down as indiſpenſable:—The civil and military government of India, or, in other words, the imperial dominion of our territories in the Eaſt, ought to be placed under other controul than that of the company of merchants in Leadenhall-ſtreet,—the controul of the genuine and legitimate executive branch of the conſtitution. The commerce of the Company ſhould be left as much as poſſible to their ſuperintendence: commerce ought always to be left to the merchant unſhackled, unembarraſſed with interferences, which might impede its current, and diminiſh its ſecurity: and, laſtly, any poſſible bad effects from the government of India on the conſtitution of Great Britain, muſt be ſedulouſly avoided. Such were the land-marks of the ſyſtem propoſed to the Houſe of Commons by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. On the 24th of January, he moved for leave to bring in a bill for the better government and management of the affairs of the Eaſt India Company.

By this bill, commiſſioners were to be appointed by his Majeſty, from the members of his privy council, who were authorized and empowered, from time to time, to check, ſuperintend, and controul all acts, operations, and concerns, which in anywiſe relate to the civil or military government or revenues of the territories and poſſeſſions of the ſaid United Company in the Eaſt Indies.

It then enacts, That the ſaid board ſhall have acceſs to all papers and documents of the ſaid United Company, and ſhall be furniſhed with copies thereof, and of all the proceedings of all general and ſpecial courts of proprietors, and of the court of directors; and alſo copies of all diſpatches which the directors ſhall receive from any of their ſervants in the Eaſt Indies, immediately after the arrival thereof; and alſo copies of all letters, orders, and inſtructions what-

1784 ſoever, relating to the civil or military government or revenues of the Britiſh territorial poſſeſſions in the Eaſt Indies, propoſed to be ſent to any of the ſervants of his Majeſty, or of the ſaid Company, in the Eaſt Indies; and that the court of directors ſhall, and are required to pay due obedience to, and ſhall be governed and bound by ſuch orders and directions as they ſhall, from time to time, receive from the ſaid board, touching the civil or military government and revenue of the territories and poſſeſſions of the Company.

And it was further enacted, That the ſaid board ſhall return the copies of the ſaid diſpatches to the court of directors, with their approbation thereof, or their reaſons, at large, for diſapproving the ſame, together with inſtructions in reſpect thereto; and that the court of directors ſhall thereupon diſpatch and ſend the letters, orders, and inſtructions, ſo approved or amended, to their ſervants in India, without further delay; and no letters, orders, or inſtructions, until after ſuch previous communication thereof to the ſaid board, ſhall, at any time, be ſent or diſpatched by the ſaid directors to the Eaſt Indies, on any account or pretence whatſoever.

It further enacts, That in caſe the ſaid board ſhall ſend any orders, which, in the opinion of the ſaid court of directors, ſhall relate to points not connected with the civil or military government and revenues of the ſaid territories and poſſeſſions in India, it ſhall be lawful for them to apply by petition to his Majeſty in council touching ſuch order; and the deciſion of the council thereon ſhall be final and concluſive.

It then enacts, That the nomination of the commanders in chief ſhall be veſted in his Majeſty; and that the ſaid commanders in chief ſhall always be ſecond in council. It alſo veſts in his Majeſty the power to remove any governor-general, preſidents, and members of the councils of any Britiſh ſettlements in India; and enacts, that all vacancies in the offices aforeſaid, ſhall be ſupplied by the court of directors, ſubject to the approbation of his Majeſty; and in caſe the perſon nominated by the ſaid court ſhall not be approved by his Majeſty, the ſaid court ſhall proceed to nominate ſome other perſon, ſubject to the approbation or diſallowance of his Majeſty, in the ſame manner as before directed; and ſo, *toties quoties*, until ſome perſon or perſons ſhall be nominated or appointed who ſhall be approved by his Majeſty; and in caſe the court of directors ſhall not, within a certain number of days, hereafter to be ſpecified, proceed to ſupply the ſame, then it ſhall be lawful for his Majeſty to appoint a perſon to ſupply the office ſo vacant.

Laſtly, it was enacted, That no order or reſolution of any general court of proprietors ſhall be available to revoke or reſcind, or in any reſpect to affect the proceeding of the court of directors, after his Majeſty's pleaſure ſhall have been ſignified upon the ſame.

The debates on this bill turned principally on its merits and demerits as compared with the India bill rejected in the Houſe of Lords. It was argued by Mr. Pitt, that, in his bill, all the rights enjoyed by the Company under their charter, were preſerved inviolate, as far as was compatible with the public ſafety. When, in anſwer to this, it was aſſerted, that nothing but the ſhadow of power was left to the Company; and that, by the negative reſerved to the crown in all matters whatſoever, the ſubſtance was, in effect, veſted there,—he contended, that whatever might be the effect of the bill, yet having previouſly obtained the conſent, both of the court of proprietors and directors, to all the regulations contained in it, no violation of privileges could be inferred, where there was a voluntary ſurrender of them. The ſecond point in which the new bill differed from the former was this,—that it left where it found all the patronage of the Company, the commander in chief excepted. On the other ſide, it was maintained, that the whole military patronage would almoſt neceſſarily follow the appointment of the

A. D. 1784 the commander in chief. In the former bill, the transferring the entire government of the Company's affairs to the new board, the nomination of commiſſioners in Parliament, and the permanent duration of their authority for a term of four years, had occaſioned great alarm, as creating a new power dangerous to the conſtitution. The object of the preſent bill was merely controul, and the exerciſe of that controul, like every branch of the executive government, was referred to the diſcretion of the crown. In anſwer to this, it was obſerved, that to leave one ſet of men, who had not only been convicted of having notoriouſly abuſed their power, but were univerſally allowed to be unfit for the truſt repoſed in them, in the poſſeſſion of dominion, merely for the purpoſe of being controuled by another, was to eſtabliſh dominion and weakneſs in government upon ſyſtem.—In ſhort, the bill, on its ſecond reading, on the 23d of January, was rejected by a very ſmall majority.

The loſs of this bill was followed by a very general expectation that there would be a new adminiſtration, or an immediate diſſolution of the Parliament. The miniſtry, however, notwithſtanding the ſuperiority of the oppoſition in the Houſe of Commons, maintained their ground, and the Parliament was not diſſolved till ſome time afterwards. Mr. Pitt, at this time, was a rare example of patience and magnanimity: he conſidered himſelf as bound by the duty he owed his country, to remain a miniſter without a majority in Parliament, and to ſuffer the daily mortifications which may be naturally ſuppoſed to ariſe from ſuch a ſituation.

In this ſtate of public diſtraction, it was the wiſh of many of the country gentlemen that the oppoſing parties ſhould coaleſce, and that an adminiſtration might be ſo formed, as to enſure that laſting unanimity among the leaders of the different parties which would forward the operations of government, and reſtore national tranquillity: for this deſirable end, negociations were commenced, but without ſucceſs; and as the oppoſition did not dare to ſtop the voting of the ſupplies, though ſome of its leaders were diſpoſed to adopt that deſperate meaſure, the miniſtry at length triumphed; and, on the 24th of March, Parliament was prorogued, and the day following diſſolved by proclamation.

In the ſpeech which the King delivered from the throne, he took occaſion to obſerve, that, on a full conſideration of the preſent ſituation of affairs, and of the extraordinary circumſtances which produced it, he was induced to put an end to the ſitting of Parliament. He felt it a duty which he owed to the conſtitution and to the country, to recur as ſpeedily as poſſible to the ſenſe of the people, by the mode of a general election. He truſted that this meaſure would obviate the miſchiefs ariſing from the unhappy diviſions and diſtractions that had lately ſubſiſted, and that the important ſubjects which required the conſideration of Parliament, might be afterwards proceeded upon with leſs interruption and happier effect. He could have no other object than to preſerve the true principles of the conſtitution, and to employ the powers entruſted to him by law, for the only end for which they were given,—the good of his people.

Though the oppoſition had poſſeſſed a very uncommon and commanding majority in the Houſe of Commons, the nation at large was extremely favourable to the preſent adminiſtration. At the very moment when Mr. Pitt could not carry a ſingle queſtion in Parliament, the common-council of London voted their thanks to him, for his able, upright, and diſintereſted conduct, as Firſt Lord of the Treaſury and Chancellor of the Exchequer, on the preſent alarming and critical juncture of affairs. The court alſo unanimouſly voted the freedom of the city, to be preſented to Mr. Pitt in a gold box, as a mark of gratitude for, and approbation of, of, his zeal and aſſiduity in ſupporting the legal prerogatives of the crown and the conſtitutional rights of the people. A motion was alſo made in the ſame court, to acknowledge, with the deepeſt gratitude, the late timely interference of the Houſe of Lords for the preſervation of our excellent conſtitution, and the ſecurity of the rights of every branch of the legiſlature; which, after ſome debate, was carried by a great majority.

It had been a favourite aſſertion of many of the leading members of oppoſition, that the popularity of Mr. Pitt and his colleagues did not poſſeſs any ſolid foundation, and that a very ſhort time would ſuffice for its deſtruction: but this opinion found an unreſerved contradiction in almoſt every part of the kingdom. The great and memorable conteſt between adminiſtration and the Houſe of Commons had continued much longer than any one could have foreſeen or expected; and, during the ſtruggle, the popularity of the former, inſtead of diminiſhing, ſeemed daily to grow more extenſive and unqueſtionable. Never was any deciſion, if taken in all its parts, more full and explicit than that which was given by the people in the general election which immediately followed the diſſolution of Parliament.

The meeting of the new Parliament took place on the 18th of May; and it is from this term that we may date, in a great degree, the parliamentary exiſtence of Mr. Pitt's adminiſtration: the remainder of the laſt ſeſſion may rather be ſaid to have been conſumed in a conteſt between two powerful parties, than in the characteriſtic exertions of a regular government.

The former ſpeaker being again ſeated in the chair of the Houſe of Commons, on the 19th of May the ſeſſion was opened by a ſpeech from the throne. Upon this occaſion, the King expreſſed the greateſt ſatisfaction at meeting his Parliament at this time, after having recurred, in ſuch an important moment, to the ſenſe of his people. That he entertained a juſt and confident reliance, that the aſſembly which he addreſſed was animated with the ſame ſentiments of loyalty, and the ſame attachment to the conſtitution, which had been ſo fully manifeſted in every part of the kingdom. The objects peculiarly recommended to their attention, were the alarming progreſs of frauds in the revenue, the framing of ſuch commercial regulations as were immediately neceſſary, and the providing for the good government of our poſſeſſions in the Eaſt Indies. On this latter ſubject, he hoped Parliament would not loſe ſight of the effect which the meaſures they adopted might have on our own conſtitution and deareſt intereſts at home. His Majeſty declared he had no wiſh but to conſult the proſperity of his people, by a conſtant attention to every object of national concern, by an uniform adherence to the true principles of our free conſtitution, and by ſupporting and maintaining in their juſt balance, the rights and privileges of every branch of the legiſlature.

On the 20th of the ſame month, the following definitive treaty of peace and friendſhip between his Majeſty the King of Great Britain and their High Mightineſſes the States-General of the United Provinces of the Low Countries, was ſigned at Paris, by the plenipotentiaries of the reſpective powers:—

" Article I. There ſhall be a chriſtian, univerſal, and perpetual peace, as well by ſea as by land, and a ſincere and conſtant friendſhip ſhall be re-eſtabliſhed between his Britannic Majeſty, his heirs and ſucceſſors, kingdoms, dominions, and ſubjects, and their High Mightineſſes the ſaid States General, and their dominions and ſubjects, of what quality or condition ſoever they be, without exception either of places or perſons; ſo that the high contracting parties ſhall give the greateſt attention to the maintaining between themſelves, and their ſaid dominions and ſubjects, this reciprocal friendſhip and intercourſe, without permitting hereafter, on either part, any kind of hoſtilities to be committed, either by ſea or by land, for any cauſe,

A. D. 1784 cauſe or under any pretence whatſoever: and they ſhall carefully avoid, for the future, every thing which might prejudice the union happily re-eſtabliſhed, endeavouring, on the contrary, to procure reciprocally for each other, on every occaſion, whatever may contribute to their mutual glory, intereſts, and advantage, without giving any aſſiſtance or protection, directly or indirectly, to thoſe who would do any injury to either of the high contracting parties.—There ſhall be a general oblivion of every thing which may have been done or committed, before or ſince the commencement of the war which is juſt ended.

"II. With reſpect to the honours of the flag, and the ſalute at ſea, by the ſhips of the Republic towards thoſe of his Britannic Majeſty, the ſame cuſtom ſhall be reſpectively followed as was practiſed before the commencement of the war which is juſt ended.

"III. All the priſoners taken on either ſide, as well by land as by ſea, and the hoſtages carried away or given during the war, and who have not yet been reſtored, conformably to the preliminary treaty, ſhall be reſtored as ſoon as poſſible, without ranſom; each power reſpectively diſcharging the advances which ſhall have been made for the ſubſiſtence and maintenance of their priſoners, by the ſovereign of the country where they ſhall have been detained, according to the receipts, atteſted accounts, and other authentic vouchers, which ſhall be furniſhed on each ſide: and ſureties ſhall be reciprocally given for the payment of the debts which the priſoners may have contracted in the countries where they may have been detained until their entire releaſe. And all ſhips, as well men of war as merchant ſhips, which may have been taken ſince the expiration of the terms agreed upon for the ceſſation of hoſtilities by ſea, ſhall likewiſe be reſtored *bonâ fide*, with all their crews and cargoes: and the execution of this article ſhall be proceeded upon immediately after the exchange of the ratifications of this treaty.

"IV. The States General of the United Provinces cede and guaranty, in full right, to his Britannic Majeſty, the town of Negapatnam, with the dependencies thereof; but in conſideration of the importance which the States General of the United Provinces annex to the poſſeſſion of the aforeſaid town, the King of Great Britain, as a proof of his good will towards the States, promiſes, notwithſtanding this ceſſion, to receive and treat with them for the reſtitution of the ſaid town, in caſe the Lords the States ſhould hereafter have an equivalent to offer him.

"V. The King of Great Britain ſhall reſtore to the States General of the United Provinces, Trinquemale, as alſo all the other towns, forts, harbours, and ſettlements, which in the courſe of the war have been conquered in any part of the world whatever by the arms of his Britannic Majeſty, or by thoſe of the Engliſh Eaſt India Company, and of which he ſhould be in poſſeſſion; the whole in the condition in which they ſhall be found.

"VI. The States General of the United Provinces promiſe and engage, not to obſtruct the navigation of the Britiſh ſubjects in the Eaſtern Seas.

"VII. Whereas differences have ariſen between the Engliſh African Company and the Dutch Weſt India Company, relative to the navigation on the coaſts of Africa, as alſo on the ſubject of Cape Apollonia; for preventing all cauſe of complaint between the ſubjects of the two nations on thoſe coaſts, it is agreed, that commiſſaries ſhall be named, on each ſide, to make ſuitable arrangements on theſe points.

"VIII. All the countries and territories which may have been, or which may be conquered, in any part of the world whatſoever, by the arms of his Britannic Majeſty, as well as by thoſe of the States General, which are not included in the preſent treaty, neither under the

1784 head of ceſſions, nor under the head of reſtitutions, ſhall be reſtored without difficulty, and without requiring any compenſation.

" IX. Whereas by the ninth article of the preliminary treaty a period was ſtipulated and appointed by the high contracting parties, for the reſtitutions and evacuations to be made, on each ſide, of the towns, fortreſſes, and territories which might have been conquered by their reſpective arms, and of which they might be in poſſeſſion, excepting ſuch as had been ceded; and whereas the term ſpecified in the aforeſaid ninth article is already expired; the high contracting parties engage reciprocally, and *bonâ fide*, to obſerve the ſaid ſtipulations, and in caſe, by any accident or otherwiſe, the ceſſions and reſtitutions therein compriſed ſhould not have taken place, to expedite immediately the neceſſary orders, to the end that there may be no farther delay in the accompliſhment of the ſaid ſtipulations.

" X. His Britannic Majeſty and their High Mightineſſes the aforeſaid States General, promiſe to obſerve ſincerely, and *bonâ fide*, all the articles contained and eſtabliſhed in this preſent treaty; and they will not ſuffer the ſame to be infringed, directly or indirectly, by their reſpective ſubjects; and the ſaid high contracting parties guaranty to each other, generally and reciprocally, all the ſtipulations of the preſent articles.

" XI. The ſolemn ratifications of the preſent treaty, prepared in good and due form, ſhall be exchanged in this city of Paris, between the high contracting parties, in the ſpace of one month, or ſooner if it can be done, to be computed from the day of the ſignature of the preſent treaty.

" In witneſs whereof, we, the under-written, their ambaſſadors and miniſters plenipotentiary, have ſigned with our hands, in their names, and by virtue of our full powers, the preſent definitive treaty, and have cauſed the ſeals of our arms to be affixed thereto.

" Done at Paris, the twentieth of May, 1784.

(L. S.) DANIEL HAILES.
(L. S.) LESTEVENON VAN BERKENROODE.
(L. S.) BRANTSEN.

Soon after the meeting of Parliament, a petition of the proprietors of landed eſtates in his Majeſty's ſugar colonies, and of the merchants of London trading thereto, and other perſons intereſted therein, was preſented to the Houſe of Commons.—This petition ſets forth, that the petitioners, or their anceſtors, have inveſted their fortunes in the ſettlement, cultivation, and commerce of the ſaid colonies, to the extent, upon the moſt moderate computation, of more than 50,000,000l. ſterling; whereby the ſaid colonies, and the commerce thereon dependent, have become the moſt conſiderable ſource of navigation and national wealth which Great Britain poſſeſſes out of the limits of the mother country; and that whilſt the ſaid colonies, as well directly as through the medium of other dependent branches of trade, afford a market for Britiſh commodities, to a very great amount, and conſtant employment for more than 100,000 tons of ſhipping, in the direct intercourſe between Great Britain and the ſaid colonies; while the clear income of the eſtates in the ſaid colonies, after defraying the expences of thoſe who are reſident there, is almoſt entirely ſpent in the mother country: wherefore the petitioners conceive, that no part of the national property can be more beneficially employed for the public than theirs, nor any intereſts better entitled to the protection of the legiſlature; and that the diſaſters and expences of the late war, coinciding with many natural calamities, and with the effect of the heavy increaſe of duties impoſed upon the ſtaple articles of their produce, have reduced the petitioners to great diſtreſs and difficulty, and endanger their ability,

without

without relief from Parliament, to carry on the cultivation of the ſaid iſlands; which failing, the navigation, and all the other ſubordinate intereſts and advantages dependent on the cultivation, muſt fail with it; and that the ſaid ſugar colonies cannot produce any quantity of proviſions at all adequate to their wants, without miſapplying thereto that culture which the public good requires to be appropriated to thoſe articles of commerce which that climate alone produces: and that Barbadoes and the leeward iſlands do not afford any ſupply of lumber whatever.

The petition alſo ſtates, that the ſaid ſugar colonies never have been, and, to the perfect conviction of the petitioners, never can be ſupplied, ſo as ſteadily to ſupport the culture thereof, with lumber and proviſions from any other country ,but thoſe which form the United States of America; ſeeing that the gulf and river of St. Laurence are frozen up half the year, and that the open half includes the hurricane months in the Weſt Indies; and that the want of inhabitants, and the rigour of the climate, as well in Nova Scotia as in Canada, fruſtrate all juſt expectation of thoſe colonies becoming ſpeedily, if ever productive, to any conſiderable degree, of thoſe articles of which the Weſt Indies ſtand in need: and that the ſaid ſugar colonies never have paid, and to the perfect conviction of the petitioners, never can pay, for ſuch lumber and proviſions, but by that part of their produce which being ſuperflous to Great Britain, has never found a market therein, conſiſting chiefly of rum, of which the dominions now forming the United States, uſed, in time of peace, to conſume a greater quantity than Great Britain and Ireland did, even before the conſumption into Great Britain was diſcouraged, by the heavy duties impoſed thereon, to the equal detriment of the revenue and of the intereſts of the petitioners: and this ſuperfluous produce, if not conſumed in Great Britain or the dominions of the United States, muſt be loſt, ſeeing the conſumption of the additional inhabitants which Canada and Nova Scotia may acquire, can amount to a mere trifle: thus, the value of the ſupplies which this ſuperfluous produce ought to pay for, would become a drain of ſo much caſh from the mother country, as muſt, in payment for ſuch lumber and proviſions, be drawn out of (what would otherwiſe reſt in Great Britain) the value of the remaining produce of the ſugar colonies ſold there, and which would be paid, through the medium of America, to the French, and other foreign ſugar colonies, for ſupplies ſimilar to thoſe which we ſhould thus, in the firſt inſtance, throw away.

It alſo ſets forth, that the intercourſe naturally ariſing out of theſe mutual wants of his Majeſty's ſugar colonies and the dominions now forming the United States of America, was, in time of peace, chiefly carried on by American ſhipping, of which a large proportion conſiſted of ſloops, ſchooners, and other ſmall veſſels, adapted to the cheap conveyance of bulky commodities, for a ſhort navigation, and not at all fit for or employed in the conveyance of ſugar from the Weſt Indies to Europe, but which took back the returns for their own cargoes in the ſuperfluous produce before-mentioned: and that although the direct intercourſe with America in American ſhips, is, by his Majeſty's proclamation, freely permitted to the petitioners fellow-ſubjects, not only in Great Britain, but in Ireland, it is with-held from the petitioners, to whom, of all his Majeſty's ſubjects, it is the moſt eſſential; and the ſaid intercourſe ſtands reſtrained to Britiſh-built ſhips; by which if the trade were to be carried, they muſt generally proceed from Great Britain to America in ballaſt, at a ruinous expence, and greatly enhance to the conſumer the price of thoſe commodities which form the foundation of all his culture, and which the petitioners conceive that every principle of commercial policy coincides in requiring to be conveyed to his hand at the cheapeſt rate poſſible.

1784 It then ſtates, that additional duties upon the conſumption of the ſaid ſuperflous produce of his Majeſty's ſugar colonies in the dominions of the American ſtates, and on Britiſh ſhips trading thither, have been impoſed upon the expreſs ground of Great Britain prohibiting that intercourſe by American veſſels, which the French ſugar colonies not only admit, but, with true policy, invite; whereby a preference moſt dangerous to our eſſential intereſts is given to the foreign ſugar colonies, in the demand for thoſe commodities which there is no natural obſtacle to their ſupplying as well as we can, although their regulations had hitherto prevented it: and that, under all theſe circumſtances, the petitioners are impelled, by every public and private duty, in the moſt explicit terms to inform the Houſe, that if, by means of this prohibition, the Britiſh ſugar colonies are deprived of a market for that part of their produce which is ſuperfluous to Great Britain and Ireland, and loaded with the additional expence of procuring lumber and proviſions, above ſtated, which ſeems the inevitable conſequence of perſevering therein, the cultivation of the ſaid ſugar colonies cannot be carried on at all, nor any of them to advantage: for which reaſons, the petitioners are convinced, and ſubmit to the Houſe, that far from being favourable to Britiſh navigation, the prohibition in queſtion is big with deſtruction to one of its principal ſources; and, if it ſhould be perſiſted in, his Majeſty's ſugar colonies muſt, in the natural courſe of things, ſink together with the navigation, revenues, and all the complicated public intereſts thereon dependent, in one common ruin with the private fortunes of the petitioners, &c. &c.

This petition ſtrikes at the very root of the navigation act, which is the baſis of our great maritime power, and has given us the trade of the world: it was therefore ordered to lay upon the table, as a matter of future conſideration.

A very principal object of attention during this ſeſſion of Parliament were the regulations that were adopted upon the ſubject of ſmuggling, and particularly the act of Parliament commonly called the Commutation Act.

A committee had been appointed early in the laſt ſeſſion of the preceding Parliament to enquire into the illicit practices uſed in defrauding the revenue; in conſequence of which, three reports were delivered in, which entered very much into a detail of the ſubject, and were conſidered as exhibiting very important matter for the melioration of the revenue. On the 11th of February, the chairman of the committee had moved a reſolution, ſtating, that the illicit practice had greatly increaſed,—that the public revenue was defrauded to the extent of not leſs than two millions per annum,—and that theſe enormities and national loſſes merited the early ſerious attention of Parliament.

Soon after the meeting of the new Parliament, the ſubject of theſe reports, and of the laws in being for the prevention of ſmuggling, was referred to a committee of the whole Houſe.—On the 21ſt of June, the Chancellor of the Exchequer moved that the duties of cuſtoms and exciſe payable on teas, do ceaſe and determine. This motion was made as a preliminary to certain reſolutions which were to form the baſis of a law to prevent ſmuggling. This motion was grounded on the following obſervations on the illicit trade of this kingdom.

That this illicit trade had for ſome years paſt been carried to an amazing height, and was become very alarming to the revenue in many of its branches, but more particularly in the article of tea, is matter of univerſal notoriety. Tea was ſaid, with great reaſon, to be the ſtaple of ſmuggling; for though the contraband trade extended to a variety of articles, yet tea was ſuch a principal commodity in this illicit trade, that if any means could be deviſed to prevent the ſmuggling of tea, it was generally believed, as it has ſince turned out, that the other

A. D. 1784 and leſſer branches could hardly give encouragement to the practice, eſpecially if the regulations which were now projecting ſhould be adopted.

The amount of the duty on tea was, at this period, between 700,000l. and 800,000l. and as it was propoſed by Government not to raiſe upon tea in future above 169,000l. there would be a falling off of at leaſt 600,000l. per annum. Though the reaſon for lowering the duty at all, was to take away the temptation to ſmuggling by diminiſhing the profits, there did not appear, in order to effect this purpoſe, to be any occaſion to take off the whole of the duty; for, if we take into conſideration the market price of teas in the other European countries,—that the price alſo of inſurance and freight, in ſo hazardous a trade, was near 25l. per cent. to the ſhore,—that the inſurance for the inland carriage of it in this kingdom, was about 10l. per cent. more,—the profit upon the whole could not be reckoned at more than 5l. per cent. becauſe the voyage from the continent to England might be very often repeated in the courſe of the year, ſo that the 5l. per cent. might, upon the whole of the ſmuggler's capital, be reckoned in the end at 50l. per cent. per annum. It was evident, therefore, that conſidering the expences attending the ſea and inland inſurances, with the freight and profit, the ſmuggler muſt ſell at 40l. per cent. above the prime coſt.

The plan therefore, that was propoſed, was to take off all the exciſe duty on tea, and impoſe a cuſtom duty of 12l. 10s. on bohea tea: this it was apprehended would ruin the ſmuggling trade in that article: on the finer kind of teas a higher duty would be laid; 15l. per cent. on Souchong, &c.; 20l. on Singlo and Hyſon, and 30l. on Congo.

We have already obſerved, that the total annual importation of teas into Europe amounted to about 19,000,000 lbs. above two-thirds of which quantity was conſumed in Great Britain and Ireland, though the legal importation was not quite 6,000,000; conſequently the quantity annually ſmuggled muſt have been above 7,000,000 lbs. According to this calculation, the people of England were conſiderably under-rated at the number of 6,000,000. Of theſe, it was ſaid that 2,000,000 would be relieved from the payment of the preſent duty on tea, without being obliged to contribute a farthing towards the tax which would be propoſed as a ſubſtitution; the other 4,000,000, it was calculated, could, one with another, conſume three pounds of tea each in the year, for each pound of which they, at this time, paid on an average 2s. 7d. duty: this duty, or the principal part of it, being taken off, they could, of courſe, afford to pay to a ſubſtituted tax, which was propoſed to be raiſed in the following manner:

On every houſe with ſeven windows, and which houſe was alſo rated to the houſe tax, it was intended to lay an additional tax of 3s. and ſo on charging 8s. for every houſe of eight windows,—9s. for thoſe of nine windows,—10s. 6d. for thoſe of ten windows, and ſo on adding 2s. 6d. for each window up to twenty-four,—and ſtill riſing up to one hundred and eighty windows, for which 20l. per annum ſhould be paid over and above the duty at preſent paid on windows and houſes. This regulation was calculated to produce above 700,000l.; ſo that with the new duty on tea, the produce would be near 900,000l. According to this plan, therefore, it appeared that the public revenue would be a conſiderable gainer, and, at the ſame time, the people would have no reaſon to complain of additional burdens. As for example: an houſe which ſhould be rated at 10s. 6d. would contain a number of inhabitants ſufficient to conſume ſuch a quantity of tea, as, from its reduced price, would more than indemnify them from the additional duty.

In England, Scotland and Wales, it was calculated that there were about 699,058 houſes, which might be divided into the following different claſſes: 286,293 houſes under 7 windows;

211,483

1784 211,483 houſes, from 8 to 10 windows; 38,324, of 11 ditto; 24,919, from 12 to 13; 67,652, from 14 to 19; 52,652, of 20 windows and upwards; and 17,732 houſes in Scotland. Of theſe, about 200,000, as being excuſed from the houſe tax, would pay nothing to this new tax, and the inhabitants, being of the poorer ſort, would be wholly delivered from the duty on tea. The great benefits, therefore, that would ariſe from this new regulation, would be the checking, or rather the abſolute ruin of the ſmuggling trade,—that the fair trader would be relieved, in a great meaſure, from the diſagreeable viſits of exciſe officers, and that the Eaſt India Company would poſſeſs the very great advantage of ſupplying the whole kingdom with tea inſtead of leſs than one half; or, in other words, would find a vent for 13,000,000 lbs. of tea, when at preſent it does not diſpoſe of quite 6,000,000: the Company alſo, would hereby be enabled to take 20 additional large ſhips into their ſervice, which would find employ for 2,000 ſeamen, a circumſtance in itſelf of great national importance. Such a plan, therefore, which, while it encreaſed the public revenue, produced a ſaving to the people, was ſurely calculated to meet the approbation of Parliament, and of the nation at large. It was certainly not the intereſt of the India Company, having the market of tea excluſively, to avail themſelves of their monopoly to raiſe the prices of that article, becauſe the ſmugglers who had hitherto carried on their trade againſt the high duties, would then carry it on againſt the high prices: nevertheleſs, that the people might not be left at the mercy of the Company, it was propoſed that, if ever the price of tea, at their ſales, ſhould exceed a given price, that the ports of the kingdom ſhould then be thrown open for the importation of tea from the continent.

Such were the principles on which the motion was founded for determining the duties on teas, and which was followed by various reſolutions, that ſerved as the foundation of the act ſince known by the name of the Commutation Act.

The principal objection to this bill, aroſe from the idea that it abandoned a certain national income of near a million per annum, upon an uncertain expectation of benefiting the revenue by putting an end to the practice of ſmuggling, and to make amends for the defalcation by laying a tax of a very unpopular and oppreſſive nature. But the arguments uſed in ſupport of this objection, were by no means ſufficient to obſtruct the progreſs, or alter the form of a meaſure, which had ſuch great public advantages in view.

That this bill gave up the exiſting duties and exciſe on teas was undoubtedly true, but it propoſed to lay another duty in lieu of them; and it propoſed an additional tax on windows, not as a new tax, but as a commutation for the portion of the duties on tea that it gave up,—and the reaſon for ſuch a regulation was to check the pernicious and deſtructive practice of ſmuggling. The great and alarming extent to which that illicit trade had arrived, was well known to every one; while the conſequences it threatened to the revenue, to commerce, and to the kingdom in general, were ſo ſerious, and of ſuch magnitude, that it became highly neceſſary to take ſome effectual meaſures to check, if not to prevent the continuance of ſmuggling.

With ſuch a view this bill was framed, and there was every reaſon to expect that it would go further towards extinguiſhing the practice of ſmuggling, than any meaſure that had ever been propoſed or adopted for its prevention. Tea was the great baſis of the ſmuggler's trade: if, therefore, that eſſential article of illicit traffic was taken out of their hands, there was the greateſt reaſon to believe that ſmuggling would be carried on, at moſt, to a very trifling and inconſiderable extent. In order, therefore, to effect this neceſſary and beneficial purpoſe, the bill propoſed to lower the exiſting duties on tea, and to reduce them in ſuch a degree as ſhould enable the fair trader to rival the ſmuggler.

As

A. D. 1784. As the duties of cuſtoms and exciſe ſtood at this time, they amounted to about 50 per cent. on the value of teas of all deſcriptions; and, according to the preſent bill, thoſe high duties would be lowered to about a fourth part of that amount,—a reduction that would leave the ſmuggler ſo little room for profit, that it would not be worth his while to run the riſk to which his illicit trade would be expoſed, for the chance of obtaining the ſmall profit that could be gained by his dealing any longer in tea. Every trade, licit or illicit, depends altogether upon the proportion of profit ſet againſt the proportion of riſque and probable loſs, and if this bill ſhould ſucceed, by leſſening the one and increaſing the other, in the contraband commerce which it is intended to correct, there could be no doubt of its immediate happy effects.

It is very true that tea, from the Revolution to the preſent time, has been conſidered as a fit object of taxation; nevertheleſs, the duties upon that article might be carried to a point, that would in a great degree deſtroy themſelves, as well as aſſiſt in decreaſing other branches of the revenue. There is a medium in every thing, a point to which it might be prudent to go, but beyond which it would be extremely unwiſe to proceed. This was preciſely the caſe with tea, the high duties upon it gave ſo much profit to the ſmuggler, that it was the baſis of his traffic, and all the regulations that had hitherto been deviſed, were proved, by conſtant experience, to be inſufficient to prevent the ſmuggler from making it an article of his illegal commerce, when ſuch a profit might be derived from it. The only poſſible way, therefore, of curing the evil, was to reduce the duties: nor would that reduction be attended with ſuch a deficiency on the revenue ariſing from the article itſelf, as had been ſtated by ſome of the enemies to this bill; becauſe the new revenue ariſing from the diminiſhed duty, *ad valorem*, was not to be calculated upon the quantity of teas that paid the preſent duties, but upon an infinitely larger quantity, as it was perfectly reaſonable to ſuppoſe, that, when the duties were ſo much lowered as to render it no longer worth the ſmuggler's attention to deal in tea, what was now run into the kingdom, would then be fairly imported, and would add to the revenue by the proportion of the increaſe of duties which would, in that caſe, be paid.

With regard to the tax on windows, it is ſufficient to obſerve, that it is not propoſed by the bill as a new tax, but as a commutation, and which might reaſonably be relied on for its produce, becauſe it is nothing more than an extenſion of a tax already exiſting, the efficacy and productiveneſs of which is a matter of indubitable notoriety. This bill might be conſidered as a kind of experiment, but was ſuch an one as promiſed to be very beneficial to the public, by at once preſerving and ſupporting the revenue, and extending the commerce of Great Britain.

This bill met with no inconſiderable oppoſition in its way to the throne; but the ſucceſs with which its operations have been attended, and the very beneficial effects it has produced to the public revenues, as well as the many other advantages which are connected with it, will render it a monument to the honour of the miniſter who framed it for the ſervice of his country.

The Commutation Act was, however, only part, though a very principal one, of the ſyſtem which Mr. Pitt had formed to check the progreſs, and, if poſſible, to annihilate the practice of ſmuggling; another bill was brought into the Houſe during this ſeſſion, to aid that beneficial purpoſe. The objects of this bill were,—to extend the diſtance from ſhore at which ſeizures ſhould be lawful,—to prohibit the building veſſels of certain dimenſions, and the arming them beyond a certain extent,—and to introduce other regulations tending to the ſame general object.

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1784 In the committee upon this bill, which ſat on the 12th of July, a conſiderable debate took place on the regulations, rendering the owners of ſhips amenable for the miſconduct of the mariners, which had been originally introduced by the acts of 1779 and 1781, and which were preſerved by the preſent meaſure. The injuſtice of ſuch a proviſion, which made the faults of the ſervants to redound upon the maſter, was to annex impunity to guilt and puniſhment to innocence; ſo that the hardſhip fell upon the fair trader, to the excluſion of ſuch as were concerned in articles of illicit commerce. Mr. Baring and Mr. Atkinſon, two gentlemen who were concerned in a very extenſive line of commerce, declared, that ſuch was the iniquity of theſe laws, as to determine them, as ſoon as poſſible, to ceaſe to have any concern in the article of ſhipping. In conſequence of theſe repreſentations, Mr. Pitt brought up a clauſe, the object of which was, to have it declared by a competent authority, whether a ſeizure of a veſſel ſhould be perſiſted in and proſecuted in the Court of Exchequer to forfeiture under certain caſes; ſuch as when a quantity of contraband goods was found on board, to ſo trifling an amount as to make it evident that the owner could have no concern in the buſineſs, and to render it probable that even the maſter was ignorant of the goods being concealed. This clauſe certainly tended, in a great degree, to remove the fears and apprehenſions of the ſhip owners and merchants, who, as the laws then ſtood, were expoſed to very great hardſhips, from the illegal conduct of the ſailors employed to navigate their ſhips. The diſtance from ſhore at which a ſeizure ſhould be conſidered as legal was extended to ſix leagues.

As this bill purported to diſarm the ſmuggling veſſels, and to increaſe the limits within which they were liable to forfeiture, and all this in addition to other meaſures intended to lower the duties on the articles which form the baſis of their trade, it was more than probable, that ſuch a combination of reſtrictive meaſures would force many thouſands of able ſeamen and active landſmen, either to live in a ſtate of deſperate rapine, or to throw themſelves into the arms of foreign countries, unleſs the humanity and wiſdom of Parliament would give them encouragement to come home into the claſs of honeſt and induſtrious citizens. On this humane, juſt, and wiſe principle, a clauſe was added to the bill, providing for the indemnity of ſuch offences as ſhould have been committed previouſly to its paſſing into a law.

In this ſeſſion, beſide the two bills already mentioned, a third bill paſſed into a law for the regulation of the duties upon Britiſh ſpirits, and to diſcontinue, for a limited time, certain imports upon rum and ſpirits imported from the Weſt Indies, &c.; which three bills comprehended the whole plan of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, upon the ſubject of ſmuggling, ſo far as it was now ſubmitted to Parliament.

The neceſſity of allowing a free intercourſe between the Sugar Colonies and the United States of America, in American bottoms, had been very much inſiſted on by many of the Weſt India planters and merchants. We ſhall therefore give a ſtatement of the allegations and evidence produced, and the opinions of merchants and other perſons given to the Committee of Council, extracted from their report of the 31ſt of May, in this year, on his Majeſty's order of reference of the 8th of laſt March, made upon the repreſentation of the Weſt India planters, &c. purporting to ſhew the diſtreſſed ſtate of his Majeſty's Sugar Colonies, by the operation of his Majeſty's order of Council of the ſecond of July, 1783.

This repreſentation contains the four following allegations:

"Firſt, That his Majeſty's Sugar Colonies are at preſent in ſo great diſtreſs for want of a free intercourſe between them and the United States of America, by American ſhips, that not a moment ſhould be loſt in granting them further relief.

"Secondly,

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“ Secondly, That the ſupplies derived to the ſaid Sugar Colonies from the dominions of the ſaid United States, are, in many inſtances, and at many ſeaſons of the year, not to be had from any other country, at any price whatever; and that in many other inſtances, ſuch ſupplies are not to be had from any other places, but at prices wholly ruinous.

“ Thirdly, That the navigation between the North American Colonies and his Majeſty's Sugar Colonies, cannot be effectually carried on by Britiſh ſhips, on account of the heavy expence, uncertainty and delay of ſuch circuitous navigation, beyond that which would attend the direct navigation in American ſhips.

“ Fourthly, That the planters in his Majeſty's Sugar Colonies can no otherwiſe pay for the ſupplies received from the dominions of the ſaid United States, than by the produce of their eſtates; which produce, in many inſtances, does not find any adequate vent in Great Britain, and if not taken off by the North Americans, would remain a dead weight upon all the reſt of the produce of the ſaid Sugar Colonies.”

The proofs offered in ſupport of, and againſt theſe allegations, form a maſs of inſtruction on the ſubject of our colonial commerce, which is not to be derived from any other ſource.

In ſupport of the firſt allegation, an addreſs of the aſſembly of Jamaica was produced to prove the ſcarcity of ſtaves, pine boards, plank, and building timber, as well as the votes of the aſſembly to prove the exorbitant price of flour. In Antigua, it was made to appear, that in October, 1783, proviſions were riſen nearly 50l. per cent. and that the negro proviſions and lumber were at a very high price. Evidence was alſo brought to prove, that upon the arrival of the order of Council, in the iſland of Barbadoes, lumber roſe inſtantly from about 7l. to 25l. currency per thouſand feet. A letter was alſo produced from Grenada, dated February 28th, 1784, ſtating, that every article of lumber was at a war price; and the ſame kind of evidence was offered to prove a ſimilar ſcarcity at St. Chriſtopher's and Tortola.

The following abſtract of the current prices of lumber and proviſions at Kingſton in Jamaica, as publiſhed in the Kingſton Gazette; and alſo an account of the prices of the ſaid articles in time of peace, was tranſmitted to the Committee, at their deſire.

	Flour per Barrel of 196 lbs.	Staves per Thouſand.		Boards, per Plank 1000 Feet.				Pitch Pine Scantling per 1000 Feet.	Shingles.		Wood Hoops.
		White Oak.	Red Oak.	Common.	Cedar.	Cypreſs	Yellow Pine.		Boſton	Cedar	
	£. s. £. s.	£.	£.	£. £.	£. £.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
1783, Sept. 20, —— —— 24, Proclamation publiſhed.	3 10 to 4 0	12 to 15	13	10 to —	30 to —			15	2 0 to 2 15	5 10	10
—— October 18,	6 15 to 7 0	35	20	18 to 20	35 to 40	28	25	30	3 15	7 10	10
—— November 8,	3 5 to 3 15	35	25	18 to 20	35 to 40	28	25	30	3 15	7 10	10
1784, January 31,	1 15 to 2 5	25	16	10 to 12	35 to 40	12	12	15	3 15	5	10
—— February 21,	1 15	25	16	10 to 12	35 to 40	12	12	15	2 0	5	10
—— —— 28,	1 15	25	16	10 to 12	35 to 40	12	12	15	2 0	5	10
—— March 20,	1 15	15	12	12 to 13	35 to 40	12	14	18	2 10	5	18
Common peace prices about	1 5 to 2 5	10 to 12	8 to 10	5 to 10		6 to 12	6 to 12	8 to 12	2 5	2 15 to 3 10	10

And

A. D. 1784 And in the letter of the chairman, tranſmitting this account, it is ſaid, that proviſions of all kinds are of ſo periſhable a nature in the Weſt Indies, and the conſumption both of proviſions and lumber ſo immenſe, that, unleſs the authoriſed channels of ſupply are opened, the clandeſtine ones are not to be relied upon as ſufficient to protect the iſlands from being again reduced to diſtreſs, in the courſe of a very few weeks.

In oppoſition, however, to theſe facts, particularly in what regards the preſent ſtate of the iſland of Jamaica, there was evidence laid before the Committee to the following effect.

That from the return made of the imports into the ſeveral ports of the iſland, previous to the month of November, 1783, the apprehenſions of want in the articles of lumber, &c. by no means warranted the poſitive and ſtrong aſſertions contained in the addreſs of the Aſſembly of Jamaica, to the Governor of that iſland; and that the Governor of Jamaica had made early and repeated applications to the governors of Nova Scotia and Canada, for an immediate ſupply of ſuch of the articles as were at that time wanted in the iſland, but which could not be expected to arrive there to anſwer the then demand.

The diſtreſs which enſued upon the publication of his Majeſty's order in Council, was ſtated to be principally owing to the planters not having expected that any reſtriction, in this reſpect, would take place; and having omitted, therefore, to make proviſion of thoſe ſeveral articles by other means: for it is evident, from the abſtract of prices current as before ſtated, as well as from other evidence, that, in the ſpace of about ten weeks, the prices of lumber and proviſions began gradually to fall in the iſland of Jamaica, and continued falling very conſiderably to the 20th of March laſt: and further, that from the 12th of December, 1783, to the 17th of March, 1784, incluſive, 75 Britiſh veſſels, navigated according to law, had arrived at Kingſton, with cargoes of lumber and proviſions; all which veſſels, except about ten, came from the ports of the United States. That theſe ſhips brought to Kingſton 18,000 barrels of flour,—559,050 ſtaves and heading,—796,253 feet of boards, ſcantling, &c.—and 1,450,790 ſhingles: and it was obſerved, that 18,000 barrels of flour are equal to the conſumption of the iſland for nine months.

There was alſo laid before the Committee the following account of prices current at Kingſton, on the 20th of March, as tranſmitted from thence.

ARTICLES.		*Prices current.*			*Prices ſterling.*		
		£.	*s.*	*d.*	£.	*s.*	*d.*
Superfine Philadelphia flour,	per barrel —	1	10	0	1	1	5
Common ditto,	per ditto	1	7	6	0	19	7
Ship bread, per cwt.	— —	1	5	0	0	17	10½
White oak ſtaves and headings,	per thouſand	13	0	0	9	5	8¼
Red oak ſtaves,	per ditto	10	0	0	7	2	10½
Pitch Pine boards,	per ditto	12	0	0	8	11	5
Yellow Pine ditto,	per ditto	10	0	0	7	2	10½
Common boards,	per ditto	8	0	0	5	14	3¼
Common ſhingles,	per ditto	1	5	0	0	17	10½
Meſs beef and pork	per ditto	3	0	0	2	2	10¼
Butter —	per pound	0	1	0	0	0	8½
Spermaceti candles	per ditto	0	3	6	0	2	6

Evidence was alſo given to the committee, by two eminent merchants who had reſided many years in Jamaica, that they never recollected the article of flour being ſo cheap, as at this very period, and that many of the other articles would have been thought very reaſonable, even before

A. D. 1784 fore the war, particularly ſtaves: and as the prices of theſe articles at Philadelphia, eſpecially of white and red oak ſtaves, had ariſen, during and ſince the war, more than double; it was inferred, that, in proportion to the firſt coſt in America, they were at this time cheaper at Jamaica than before the war.

The Committee alſo obtained from the ſame authority the following average prices of lumber and proviſions at Kingſton, for ten years previous to the war.

		£.	s.		£.	s.	*Medium.* £.	s.
Superfine flour per barrel, ſuppoſed to be 200 lb.	from	2	9	to	2	19	2	14
White oak ſtaves from Philadelphia, per 1000	——	10	0	to	14	0	12	0
Red oak ſtaves, per ditto, —	——	8	0	to	12	0	10	0
Common boards, per 1000 feet, —	——	7	0	to	10	0	8	10
Cypreſs and yellow pine boards, —	——	8	0	to	11	0	9	10
Pitch, pine, ſcantling and boards —	——	9	0	to	12	0	10	10
Boſton ſhingles, per 1000 feet, —	——	0	15	to	1	5	1	0
Cedar and cypreſs ſhingles, per 1000 feet,	——	3	0	to	3	10	3	5
Wood hoops from America, per 1000,	——	5	0	to	8	0	6	10
Ditto from Great Britain, —	——	10	0	to	15	0	12	10

☞ The prices of the before-mentioned articles are very variable in Jamaica. The above are wholeſale medium prices; the retail ones would be proportionably higher.

Flour, before the war, was uſually ſold by the 100 lb.—it was never under 20s. the 100 lb. frequently as high as 35s. and 40s. and ſometimes 45s.

White oak ſtaves from Philadelphia, with proportion of heading, the long thouſand of 1200;—they had been known as low as 8l. and as high as 22l.

Red oak ſtaves, the long thouſand;—they have been known as low as 7l. and as high as 20l.

Common boards, per 1000 feet;—they have been known as low as 5l. and as high as 15l.

Cypreſs and yellow pine boards, per 1000 feet;—they have been as low as 6l. and as high as 15l.

Pitch, pine, ſcantling and boards;—they have been known as low as 8l. and as high as 18l.

Cedar and cypreſs ſhingles, per 1000 feet;—they have been known as low as 2l. 15s. and as high as 3l. 15s.

To ſhew, at one view, the difference in the prices current of lumber and proviſions at Kingſton, on the 20th of March, and the prices of the ſame article prior to the war, the Committee inſerted in their report the following tables:

Comparative ſtate of the prices current of lumber and proviſions at Kingſton in Jamaica, on the 20th of March, according to the two accounts delivered in to the Committee.

FIRST ACCOUNT.	£.	£.	s.	d.
Superfine flour, per barrel of 196 lb. — —		1	15	0
White oak ſtaves, per 1000, — —		15	0	0
Red oak ditto, per ditto, — —		12	0	0
Common boards, per 1000 feet, — —	12 to	15	0	0
Cedar, — — — —	35 to	40	0	0
Cypreſs, — — — —		12	0	0
Yellow pine, — — — —		14	0	0
Pitch pine ſcantling, per 1000 feet, — —		18	0	0
Shingles, Boſton, — — — —		2	10	0
Cedar ſhingles — — — —		5	0	0
Wood hoops, per 1000, — — —		18	0	0

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SECOND ACCOUNT.

	£.	s.	d.
Superfine Philadelphia flour, per buſhel,	1	10	0
White oak ſtaves for headings, per thouſand,	13	0	0
Red oak ſtaves, per ditto,	10	0	0
Common boards, per ditto,	8	0	0
Yellow pine, per ditto,	10	0	0
Pitch pine boards, per ditto,	12	0	0
Common ſhingles,	1	5	0

Comparative ſtate of the average prices of lumber and proviſions at Kingſton in Jamaica, before the war, according to the two accounts delivered in to the Committee.

FIRST ACCOUNT.

	£.	s.		£.	s.	Medium. £.	s.	d.
Superfine flour, per barrel of 196 lbs.	1	5	to	2	5	1	15	0
White oak ſtaves, per thouſand,	10	0	to	12	0	11	0	0
Red oak ſtaves, per ditto,	8	0	to	10	0	9	0	0
Common boards, per thouſand feet,	5	0	to	10	0	7	10	0
Cypreſs and yellow pine, per ditto,	6	0	to	12	0	9	0	0
Pitch pine ſcantling, per ditto,	8	0	to	12	0	10	0	0
Shingles, Boſton,	2	5						
Ditto, cedar,	2	15	to	3	15	3	2	6
Wood hoops, per thouſand,	10							

SECOND ACCOUNT.

	£.	s.		£.	s.	Medium. £.	s.	d.
Superfine flour, per barrel,	2	9	to	2	19	2	14	0
White oak ſtaves, Philadelphia, per thouſand,	10	0	to	14	0	12	0	0
Red oak ſtaves, per ditto,	8	0	to	12	0	10	0	0
Common boards, per ditto,	7	0	to	10	0	8	10	0
Cypreſs and yellow pine boards	8	0	to	11	0	9	10	0
Pitch pine, ſcantling and boards	9	0	to	12	0	10	10	0
Shingles, Boſton,	0	15	to	1	6	1	0	0
Ditto, cedar and cypreſs,	3	0	to	3	10	3	5	0
Wood hoops from America,	5	0	to	8	0	6	10	0
Ditto, from Great Britain,	10	0	to	15	0	12	10	0

To throw ſome light on theſe two contradictory accounts, the Committee continued to examine certain merchants of great commercial knowledge and character, who declared, that they never conſidered the prices current, publiſhed in the Kingſton Royal Gazette, as very exact; that they have known the actual prices to vary during the time that the prices have appeared in the Gazette to be the ſame. That beſides they are generally the higheſt retail prices, and at the longeſt credit, which is commonly about twelve months. That the aforeſaid prices current of the 20th of March, were agreeable to the prices ſent from their houſe at Kingſton in Jamaica, and were taken from real ſales; and that the difference between the ſaid prices ſent them, and thoſe publiſhed in the Kingſton Royal Gazette, aroſe from the former being cargo prices, paid for in caſh, and that the latter were retail prices with profit and credit.

It

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It alſo appeared to the committee, that neither Antigua, Barbadoes, or Dominica, had any real ground for apprehending a ſcarcity of lumber, proviſions, &c. from his Majeſty's order in council.

It likewiſe further appeared, that a great part of the rum caſks lately made uſe of in Jamaica, were puncheons that carried out dry goods from Great Britain, or puncheon packs; that puncheon packs may be ſhipped from London at 14s. ſterling; and, including freight and charge of ſetting them up, will not coſt the planter more than 25s. or 30s. each; which is as low a price as was known during ten years preceding the war. The current prices of white-oak ſtaves at Philadephia and London were alſo nearly the ſame; being, at the former of thoſe places, 6l. per thouſand; and, at the latter, 6l. 5s.

In ſupport of t heſecond allegation, it was aſſerted, that the colonies of North America which ſtill remain under the dominion of Great Britain, were not capable of ſupplying the Weſt India iſlands with proviſions and lumber in a degree proportionate to their wants. That the crops of wheat in Canada are very uncertain; and that during the late war, the army, amounting to no more than 15,000 men, was ſupplied entirely from England.—That though the white oak of Canada is very good for ſtaves, the other ſpecies of lumber are of an inferior quality; and that ſuch is the ſcarcity of hands in that colony to get wood, as to make the price of labour to be from half a dollar to a dollar per day. With reſpect to Nova Scotia, it was alleged, that though the increaſe of inhabitants lately gone there, might, in time, lead to a ſupply of grain, lumber, and the other articles from that colony, yet, at preſent, Nova Scotia itſelf is ſupplied with them from other parts.

On the other hand, it appeared from numerous reſpectable authorities, that the province of Canada is able to export great quantities of wheat and flour, for the conſumption of the Britiſh Weſt India iſlands.—That from the year 1771 to 1775 incluſive, there was exported from Canada annually, an average of 265,000 buſhels of wheat; and that the common price of the grain before the war, did not exceed 3s. per buſhel; and that, although various cauſes co-operated, during the war, to diminiſh the cultivation of the country, no flour was imported, in that period, into Canada, except for the uſe of the troops and Indians.

It was alſo further repreſented, that the exportation of grain from Canada will not only revive, but increaſe, if the Weſt India market is ſecured to it; and that an annual export of 300,000 buſhels may be depended upon from that quarter; while, from the erection of many new mills, &c. the flour will, in future, be much finer, more free from bran, and fitter for exportation, than it had hitherto been. It alſo appeared, that great quantities of lumber can be furniſhed from Canada and the market of Quebec, where it will be exchanged for Britiſh manufactures; and that the Canadians have learned to cut their lumber to great advantage, by floating mills of a new conſtruction.

It was further ſtated, that Nova Scotia will ſoon be able to ſupply great quantities of lumber; and that if grants of lands are properly ſecured to the inhabitants, they will, in three years, be able to furniſh, at moderate prices, moſt of the articles which the Weſt India iſlands can want from North America.

It alſo appeared to the Committee, that there were 1,500,000 acres in the iſland of Cape Breton capable of producing any kind of European grain; that it abounds alſo with great quantities of lumber, pine of every dimenſion, oak of various kinds, aſh and elm, beech, birch, and maple, which grow to great ſcantlings; that theſe woods lie contiguous to the coaſt, or on navigable rivers; and that there are a great number of ſtreams fit to erect ſaw-mills

1784 mills upon. It was likewiſe ſtated, that the diſadvantage to which Canada is ſubject in point of navigation, is reverſed with reſpect to Nova Scotia and Cape Breton, the navigation from thoſe countries to the Weſt India iſlands being performed in a leſs time than from the ports of the United States.

Beſides theſe articles, there are others of which the Weſt India iſlands ſtand in need; two of theſe are rice and Indian corn. The conſumption of the firſt in the Weſt India iſlands is very ſmall, amounting, at an average of three years, to no more than 20,563 barrels annually. It is well known that rice cannot be produced either in Canada or Nova Scotia. Indian corn is a more neceſſary article; and the quantity imported into our Weſt India iſlands, at an average of three years, is 401,464 buſhels annually. It appeared, however, that a great deal of Indian corn was now grown in Nova Scotia, and that the cultivation of it was encreaſing; and although the grain might not be ſo large and fine as that which is produced in the ſouthern parts of America, it may anſwer the ſame purpoſe nearly as well: at all events, Canada and Nova Scotia produce all the ſubſtitutes for Indian corn, viz. peas, beans, barley, oats, and potatoes, at the moſt reaſonable rates; with which, except potatoes, the planters, during the laſt war, fed their negroes. It was alſo expected, that, in a ſhort time, great quantities of Indian corn, of the fineſt ſort, would be produced in the Bahama iſlands, from whence the navigation is very eaſy and ſhort to the Weſt India colonies. Theſe iſlands may likewiſe be ſupplied with live-ſtock from Nova Scotia, from whence the Britiſh army was plentifully furniſhed while it was at Boſton. As for ſalted beef and pork, beſides that of Canada and Nova Scotia, the Weſt Indies may be ſupplied with thoſe articles in plenty, and, all circumſtances conſidered, at a cheaper rate, and of a ſuperior quality, from Great Britain and Ireland, particularly from the latter; as the ſalted pork and beef from America is of an open texture, and more ſubject to decay in hot climates. Another very important article of proviſion, which the Weſt Indies require, is dried and pickled fiſh; and very ſufficient reaſons were ſtated for believing that the whole ſupply can be furniſhed by one or other of the fiſheries of Great Britain and Ireland, and thoſe of Newfoundland, Canada, and Nova Scotia. The quantity imported into the Britiſh Weſt India iſlands, is 159,669 quintals of dried fiſh annually.

In ſupport of the third allegation, the planters and merchants urged, that before the laſt war, more than three parts in four of the ſhips employed in carrying on the commerce between the Britiſh Weſt India iſlands and North America were American; and they produced two accounts, by which it appeared, that the number of ſhips ſo employed in the year 1772, amounted to 1,208, of which only 13 came from the colonies now under the dominion of his Majeſty; that is, five from Canada, ſix from Newfoundland, and two from Nova Scotia.—They inferred alſo, from the number of veſſels being ſo great, that their tonnage muſt have been ſmall; and, conſequently, they could not be Britiſh ſhips employed in the American trade, which are very ſeldom of leſs burthen than 250 or 300 tons. They produced alſo another paper, to ſhew, that of 561 ſail, which entered at the port of Kingſton, in Jamaica, in the year 1774, 131 were Britiſh-built, and 422 American-built. They alſo declared, that upon an experiment made for two or three ſucceſſive years, of carrying on the trade by a circuitous voyage, that is, by ſending ſhips from England to America to take in lumber, and carry the ſame from thence to the iſlands, it was found not to anſwer.

On the contrary, from the evidence of many eminent merchants trading to North America and the Weſt Indies, as well as other perſons who had been employed in his Majeſty's ſervice in America, it appeared, that there never was a period in which this country was better prepared than it is at preſent to enter into any new branch of the carrying trade.

A. D. 1784 It was alſo ſtated, that the owners of Britiſh veſſels concerned in the Weſt India trade, have long laboured under great diſadvantages, from the difficulty of procuring outward freights for their veſſels; but that now, by going firſt to North America, and from thence to the Weſt Indies, and ſo home, they will be ſure of two freights, and perhaps three, inſtead of little more than one, and with very ſmall additional charges in the payment of ſeamen's wages and port duties. That though the ſhips employed in the Weſt India trade from the port of London, called eſtabliſhed ſhips, have not hitherto engaged in this circuitous commerce, ſhips from the out-ports were frequently concerned in it. It was alſo obſerved, that the number of ſhips which ſeized the opportunity of going from North America to the Weſt India iſlands with lumber and proviſions, on the firſt notice of the order of council, is a clear proof that this branch of commerce is profitable. It was beſides aſſerted, that, at this time, there were ten large ſhips from the port of London already deſtined for this circuitous trade; and that three others were preparing for the ſame purpoſe, whoſe chief object was to freight from America to Jamaica; and that theſe ſhips would go from hence even in ballaſt, if a freight outwards could not be obtained. It alſo appeared, that beſides the ſhips above-mentioned, there were twelve ſail of Britiſh ſhips eſtabliſhed at Jamaica, for carrying on the trade between that iſland and the continent of America, with others intended to be fitted out; to which may be added the ſhips of Canada and Nova Scotia, which will be employed in this trade. It was at the ſame time proved, that many ſhip-carpenters had ſettled in Nova Scotia, for the purpoſe of ſhip-building; and if the trade to the Weſt Indies ſhould be confined to Britiſh ſhipping, there is no doubt but many more perſons of the ſame deſcription would be induced to ſettle in Nova Scotia, where they will find timber of every ſort fit for ſhip-building; and as the tide in the bay of Fundy riſes very high, the harbours of that country are better calculated for building ſhips than any of the continent of North America. It was alſo obſerved, that before the war, ſhips of between two and three hundred tons were built in Canada, for which purpoſe they have timber in plenty; and that the intercourſe between the Weſt Indies and America would be aſſiſted by ſloops belonging to the Bermuda and Bahama iſlands, which have always had a principal ſhare in this trade.

In ſupport of the fourth allegation, the planters and merchants produced accounts to ſhew, that, beſides ſmaller articles, there was exported to North America, in the year 1773, 3,776 hogſheads of ſugar, and 32,265 puncheons of rum; and, in the ſucceeding year, 5,325 hogſheads of ſugar, and 43,488 puncheons of rum.—They alleged, that the Americans then took from the Britiſh Weſt India iſlands their produce, in payment for nearly the amount of what they imported.

In oppoſition, however, to this, it was very ſtrongly ſtated, that the confining the intercourſe with our Weſt India iſlands to Britiſh ſhips, will be a means of ſecuring to the planters a greater export of their produce, than if the ſhips of the United States were allowed to come, as formerly, to the ports of our iſlands. It was alſo aſſerted, that though the Weſt India merchants and planters ſeemed to imagine, that before the war, the Americans took from the Britiſh Weſt India iſlands their produce, in payment for nearly the amount of what they imported, the balance was in favour of the Americans 300,000l.: for the annual average value of imports from North America into the iſlands, as eſtimated at the port of importation, freight included, amounted to 720,000l.; while their exportation to North America, freight included, was only 420,000l.

1784 It alſo appeared, from the moſt reſpectable teſtimonies, that the Americans never took, in payment of their cargoes, more than a ſmall part of the produce of our iſlands; and that, in particular, the Americans trading to Jamaica, before the war, uſed to take produce of that iſland, in payment for proviſions and lumber imported there, in nearly the following proportions:—

The ſouthern provinces, about one-half, or rather more;—the balance in dollars.

The middle provinces, about one-fourth;—balance in dollars and ſterling bills of exchange.

The northern, or New England government, not above one-tenth;—balance in dollars.

So unwilling were the Americans to take the produce of the Britiſh iſlands, that, when they ſold their lumber and proviſions in exchange for produce, and not for caſh, they generally demanded an higher price: it may be, therefore, reaſonably expected, that when the trade is confined to our own ſhips, there will be a greater exchange of produce for produce.

The reſult of this important enquiry is the ſatisfactory conviction, that by prohibiting or obſtructing the intercourſe between the continent of America and the Weſt India iſlands, the people of the United States will ſuffer more than his Majeſty's ſubjects; that their lumber and proviſions muſt periſh on their hands; and that the Britiſh iſlands may be furniſhed with thoſe articles without their aſſiſtance.

It may alſo be proper to add, that by the clearances of the cuſtom-houſe at Kingſton, in Jamaica, it appears that 18 ſail were cleared for different ports in America, in the ſpace of one month, viz. from the 20th of February to the 20th of March, chiefly laden with the produce of the Britiſh Weſt Indies; which is double the number of veſſels that, in any former period, cleared out in that voyage in ſo ſhort a time. Fifteen Britiſh-built veſſels, navigated according to law, and chiefly from America, entered the port of Kingſton, during the ſaid period, laden with 1,433 barrels of flour; 1,729 boards and ſcantlings; 151,052 ſtaves and headings; 264,600 ſhingles; and 72,300 feet of lumber:—Beſides which, five veſſels from the Muſquito ſhore brought 492 planks, and 1,110,000 feet of mahogany; nor is the importation at the out ports of that iſland included in this account.

From hence a very promiſing concluſion may be drawn, that, inſtead of loſing the American market, we ſhall ſell to the United States a greater quantity than we did before the war; eſpecially as the Americans, from the want of the ſpecie or bills which they formerly took from our iſlands, and from other cauſes, will not be enabled to trade to the foreign iſlands as they uſed to do.

The order of council of the 26th of December, 1783, to continue the temporary act which paſſed the preceding ſeſſion for regulating the commerce of Great Britain with the United States of America, (*vide* p. 516.) expiring the 20th of April, in this year, it was again continued to an unlimited period; as this act was found to anſwer every purpoſe intended by the framers of it.

The affairs of the Eaſt India Company were opened in the new Parliament by a petition from them, preſented on the 26th of May, praying the Houſe of Commons to grant them ſuch relief as the ſituation of their affairs might appear to demand. On this occaſion it was moved, that the directors lay before the Houſe the information they might have received ſince their having made up their report of the 16th of February. In conſequence of this motion, a ſecond report was preſented by them on the 1ſt of June, and, together with the preceding, immediately referred to the conſideration of a ſelect committee. This committee was conſtituted in the ſame manner as that of the laſt Parliament, with no other variation than ſuch as

A. D. 1784 had been made neceſſary by the general election. The report of the committee was completed and preſented to Parliament on the 22d inſtant, and taken into conſideration by a committee of the whole Houſe on the 2d of July.

In the mean time, a bill was introduced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to allow the Company to divide 4 per cent. for the half year concluding with Midſummer, 1784. After ſome oppoſition in both houſes, as well as ſome alterations in its ſtructure, it received the royal aſſent.

On the 2d of July, the day appointed for taking into conſideration the report of the ſelect committee, the Chancellor of the Exchequer moved for leave to bring in a bill for the relief of the Eaſt India Company. This bill had for its object the reſpite of duties, the payment of bills, and the aſcertainment of dividend. The duties were to be paid by inſtalments, at Midſummer and Chriſtmas 1785. Proviſion was made for the bills already accepted or announced. The deſign of the bill, as it related to the dividend, was to enable the Company to act on a certain baſis, without applying, from time to time, for any authority whatever. More than one queſtion of conſiderable importance was involved in the debates that took place in the progreſs of this bill: it was examined how far the honour of Parliament was pledged by the meaſure before them; what was the true ſtate of the finances of the Company; and what was the merit of the principle upon which the meaſure under diſcuſſion proceeded. Theſe queſtions were ſeriouſly debated, and ſome amendments propoſed, which being negatived, the bill proceeded in due courſe to the royal aſſent.

But all theſe meaſures were preparatory and ſubordinate to the bill of regulation that was moved for by Mr. Pitt on the 6th of July, and which, from the very great importance of its object, demanded the moſt ſerious attention of the nation. The deſigns which in the plan of the late Secretary of State were to be diſtributed into different bills, were, by Mr. Pitt, ſubmitted at once to the uninterrupted attention of Parliament. This idea was profeſſedly adopted by the miniſter, in order that the connection between the different parts of his ſyſtem might be fully ſeen. This was at once to conſtitute a new form of government at home, and to regulate the different preſidencies abroad,—to provide for the happineſs of the natives,—to put an end to all miſunderſtandings and controverſies,—and, laſtly, by a more rigid mode of legiſlation, to exclude delinquency, and to inſtitute a new judicature for the trial of offences committed in India.

Under the firſt head of the bill now introduced into Parliament, its proviſions were nearly coincident with thoſe of the bill originated by Mr. Pitt in the laſt ſeſſion of the preceding Parliament: (*vide* p. 507.) the few alterations made, uniformly tended to enlarge the powers of the board of controul. It was permitted it, in urgent caſes, to originate meaſures, as well as to reviſe, correct, and alter thoſe of the directors. In matters relative to peace and war, where ſecreſy was a principal object, it was alſo allowed to ſend its orders directly to India, without communicating them to the court of directors; and to the commanders in chief, without the knowledge of the reſpective preſidencies. It then proceeded, as had been done by the former bill, to regulate the number of perſons conſtituting the different councils of Bengal, Fort St. George, and Bombay.

With reſpect to the government abroad, in the firſt place, it gave an abſolute power to the governor-general and council of Bengal to originate orders to the inferior preſidencies, in caſes that did not interfere with the directions which had already been received from Great Britain; and added a power of ſuſpenſion, in caſe of diſobedience. The ſupreme council were forbidden, unleſs any of the Princes of India ſhould have firſt commenced or contemplated hoſtilities againſt our ſettlements, to enter upon war, or to form an offenſive treaty, without orders from home. The inferior councils were prohibited, in all common caſes, to form alliances; and, in urgent caſes, they were commanded to inſert a proviſional clauſe, rendering the permanency of the alliance dependent upon the confirmation of the governor-general. Intelligence of every important tranſaction, in all caſes, was commanded to be ſent home immediately; and each ſervant of the Company, in any of its ſettlements, was required to tranſmit accounts of every conſiderable tranſaction to the council of Bengal.

Various regulations were added reſpecting the debts of the Nabob of Arcot and the Rajah of Tanjore to private individuals and to the Company. Enquiry was ordered to be made by the different preſidencies into the expulſions that might have been made of any of the hereditary farmers, and the oppreſſive rents and contributions that might have been extorted from them; and meaſures were directed to be taken for their relief and future tranquillity. A ſimilar examination was required to be made, in order to retrenchment, into the different eſtabliſhments of our ſettlements in India, a report of which was to be annually laid before Parliament. The Company were prohibited from ſending out a greater number of cadets or writers than ſhould be abſolutely neceſſary; and it was ordered that the age of ſuch as were ſent out, ſhould not be leſs than fifteen, nor more than twenty-two years. Promotions were commanded to be made in the order of ſeniority, unleſs in extraordinary caſes, for which the preſidencies ſhould make themſelves ſpecifically reſponſible.

Crimes committed by Engliſh ſubjects in any part of India, were to be cognizable by every Britiſh court of juſtice, in the ſame manner as if they had been committed in our immediate dominions. Preſents, except ſuch as were merely ceremonial, were forbidden to be received, unleſs by a counſellor at law, a phyſician, a ſurgeon, or a chaplain, under the penalty of a confiſcation of the preſent, and an additional fine, in the diſcretion of the court. Diſobedience of orders, and pecuniary tranſactions contrary to the intereſts of the Company, were declared to be high crimes and miſdemeanours. The Company were forbidden to interfere in favour of any perſon legally condemned of the above crimes, or to employ him in their ſervice in future. The governors of the different preſidencies were permitted to impriſon any perſon ſuſpected of illicit correſpondence, and were ordered to ſend them to England with all convenient ſpeed, if their health would permit.

Every perſon ſerving, or who ſhould hereafter ſerve in India, and returning to England, was required to give in an eſtimate, upon oath, to the court of Exchequer, of his property, within two months after his arrival; one copy of which was to be kept in the court of Exchequer, and the other at the Eaſt India Houſe. The board of controul, the court of directors, or any three of the proprietors whoſe ſtock ſhould amount together to 1000l. were allowed to move the court of Exchequer to examine the validity of the account. The court of Exchequer was required, in caſe the accuſation appeared to them to be well founded, to examine the accuſed, upon oath, and to impriſon him until he ſhall have anſwered their interrogatories in a ſatisfactory manner. The whole property of every perſon who ſhould neglect to give in ſuch an account within the time limited, or who ſhould have been guilty of a miſrepreſentation of that account, to the amount of 2000l. ſterling, was ordered to be confiſcated ten per cent. for the benefit of the informer or accuſer, and the remainder to be equally divided between the public and the Company. Every perſon having been once employed in India, and

A. D. 1784 and having afterwards reſided in Europe for the ſpace of five years, unleſs for the reſtoration of his health, was declared to be incapable to be ſent out again to that country.

The attorney-general, or the court of directors, was authoriſed to file an information in the Court of King's Bench againſt any perſon for crimes committed in India. That court was empowered immediately to impriſon or admit to bail the perſon accuſed: it was then ordered, that within thirty days a certain number of Peers ſhould be choſen by the Houſe of Lords, and of members of the Houſe of Commons, by that Houſe, to conſtitute a judicature for the trial of the accuſation. The court was finally to conſiſt of three judges, appointed by the crown, four Peers, and ſix members of the Houſe of Commons; and the accuſed had a right to a peremptory challenge. The court was authoriſed to judge without appeal, and to declare the party convicted incapable of ſerving the Eaſt India Company: the puniſhments they were to award were fine and impriſonment; and in order to the proportioning the fine to the property of the convict, the court of Exchequer might, at the requiſition of the attorney-general or the Company, examine him upon oath on that ſubject: if he refuſed to anſwer their interrogatories, his property was directed to be confiſcated for the benefit of the King, and the court of Exchequer was further empowered to impriſon him during pleaſure. Records in the court of directors, and ſuch other written teſtimony as ſhould be approved by the court, were ordered to be conſidered as evidence, upon which they were authoriſed to form their ſentence.

With reſpect to the laſt head of this bill, Mr. Pitt declared, that from his extreme partiality to the preſent ſyſtem of diſtributive juſtice in this country, he could not bring himſelf to depart from it for a moment without the greateſt reluctance. There was certainly ſomething that looked like danger in the example of any deviation from the eſtabliſhed form of trial; but it was evident that, at this time, there was no regular mode by which the delinquents in India could be brought to juſtice. There ſeemed to be no alternative between the inſtitution of a new proceſs, or the continuance of offences, equally ſhocking to humanity, and contrary to every principle of religion and juſtice. The neceſſity of the caſe outweighed the riſque of the innovation: beſides, it ſhould be conſidered, that every man who went to India in future, would know the predicament in which he placed himſelf; and, in agreeing to give up ſome of the moſt eſſential privileges of his country, would do no more than a very numerous and honourable body of men, the military, did daily, without the ſmalleſt impeachment of their characters, or the purity of the motives that impelled their conduct.

On the 16th of July, a very long and violent debate took place upon this bill, when it was committed by a majority of 215,—276 being for going into the committee, and 61 againſt it. Though the Houſe of Commons ſeemed determined to ſupport the bill on general principles, the great variety of objects occaſioned a great variety of opinion concerning the different parts of it. Some approved of the proviſions for the ſuppreſſion of future delinquency, who were not equally partial to the new board of controul, or to the regulations that related to the native Princes and Zemindars: while, on the contrary, many were deſirous that an experiment ſhould be made of the kind of controul recommended by the miniſter, who beſtowed their ſevereſt reprobation upon the partial ſuſpenſion that was introduced of the trial by jury. In ſhort, the very rigid diſcuſſion which this important bill underwent in its progreſs, produced a very general alteration in the clauſes of it.

The firſt amendment was intended to modify the clauſe that empowered the board of controul to originate orders, by limiting the proceeding to the caſe of the court of directors neglecting

A. D. 1784 neglecting to tranſmit diſpatches to the board, after fourteen days notice, upon any ſubject the board might think it neceſſary to take up. To obviate the objections that had been made to the clauſe, impowering the board of controul to ſend orders directly to India, without communication with the court of directors, it was enacted, that that court appoint a committee of ſecrecy, not to exceed three perſons, with whom the board of controul might communicate theſe orders. The clauſe, veſting the nomination of the ſeveral commanders in chief at Bengal, Bombay and Madras, in the King, was expunged, and thoſe appointments left in the hands of the Company. The clauſe, reſerving to the King a negative upon the appointments of the directors, was alſo withdrawn. The clauſe which obliged all perſons returning from India to give an account of their fortunes upon oath, was greatly changed and modified.— That part of the bill which deſcribes the conſtitution of the new tribunal, underwent conſiderable alteration. As the clauſes ſtood at firſt, the bringing the accuſation lay ſolely with the Attorney General or the Company. In the place of which regulation, it was propoſed to authoriſe any other perſon or perſons to move the Court of King's Bench for an information. It was alſo deſigned to give that court power to iſſue commiſſions to the courts in India, for the purpoſe of taking depoſitions; and theſe depoſitions, together with the records of the different preſidencies, were the only ſpecies of written evidence to be allowed. Another material alteration regarded the formation of the tribunal. It was not to be choſen till the whole evidence was collected, that was capable of being procured, or thought neceſſary to ſupport the information. To bring it nearer to the nature of a ſpecial jury, it was intended to be appointed partly by ballot and partly by ſelection; and the proſecutor was to have a right to challenge, but not peremptorily. The right of nominating the judges was to be taken away from the crown, and each court was to be left to appoint one of its own bench. The laſt amendment went to the excluſion of various perſons, ſuch as the directors of the Company, and perſons returning from India, from the judicature that was to be erected. Such were the principal amendments which this important bill underwent in its progreſs through the lower Houſe, where it was finally paſſed on the 28th of July, by a very great majority; and after being expoſed to a vigorous oppoſition in the Houſe of Lords, it was paſſed in that Houſe on the 9th of Auguſt.

As the fiſheries of Scotland promiſe at length to become an object of great commercial advantage to the nation, we cannot paſs over the preliminary attention which was paid to them at the cloſe of this ſeſſion of Parliament.

There is no doubt but that the fiſheries in Scotland might be made extremely beneficial to the revenue, if proper care was taken to give them ſuitable encouragement. In order to attain this important end, and to remove all obſtacles to the immediate attainment of it, it was ſtated to the Houſe of Commons by Mr. Dempſter, that a cuſtom prevailed in certain diſtricts of Scotland bordering upon the ſea, that was a part of the old feudal cuſtoms which formerly prevailed univerſally north of the Tweed, and which conſiſted of a certain ſuit and ſervice, excluſive of the rent, which the tenant was obliged to perform to the landlord, when particularly called upon for that purpoſe. This cuſtom was deſcribed as a great hardſhip, as well as a great inconvenience to the tenants, becauſe they were generally called upon to perform ſuit and ſervice in the harveſt time and during the ſummer, which was the ſeaſon when they were moſt buſily employed in the fiſheries. That gentleman, therefore, mentioned his deſign to move for leave to bring in a bill to allow the tenants to compound for this ſuit and ſervice by a pecuniary commutation to the landlords, to be paid at the option of the tenant. By this means,

A. D. 1784 means, the tenant who would employ himſelf to greater advantage on the fiſheries, would be enabled to pay a certain ſtated price in lieu of his ſuit and ſervice to the landlord, and thus ſave the time he otherwiſe muſt loſe. Mr. Dempſter further ſaid, that it was not his intention to attempt to carry the bill through Parliament this ſeſſion, but merely, if leave were given to bring it in, to read it a firſt time, and then to print it, meaning to ſend it down to Scotland in that form, in order that the ſenſe of the country might be taken upon it; and in caſe it met with the concurrence of the parties mutually concerned in that end of the kingdom, to reſume it next year and complete it. He concluded with moving, "that leave be given to bring in a bill to allow tenants and ſub-tenants employed in the fiſheries of Great Britain, to commute for money all perſonal ſervices, which they are bound to perform to their landlords. The motion was agreed to.

On the 20th of Auguſt, the King put an end to the ſeſſion by a ſpeech from the throne. He returned Parliament his warmeſt thanks for their zealous and diligent attention to the public ſervices. He predicted the happieſt effects from the bill for the better government of India:—he applauded the laws they had made for the preſervation and improvement of the revenue:—he thanked the Commons for their proviſion for the arrear of the civil liſt:—he deplored the unavoidable burthens of the people:—he noticed the definitive treaty with Holland, and the peace concluded in India, and truſted that the preſent tranquillity would be of long continuance:—he adverted to the important objects with reſpect to trade and commerce, yet to be provided for; and he expreſſed his hopes that, on a full inveſtigation of thoſe important matters, ſuch regulations would be framed, as might be calculated to promote the wealth and proſperity of every part of the Britiſh empire.

The following arret, which was publiſhed by the French court in this year, concerning the commercial intercourſe allowed to foreigners with the French Weſt Indies, appears to give the ſame advantages to the Britiſh European and American dominions, as it does to the American ſtates. It ſeems to grant greater advantages, and to open the French iſlands more to ſtrangers than any former arret; but it permits, in fact, little more than was allowed, though not always publicly, before the war, except that certain European articles may now go directly there, without paſſing through the medium of the ports of France. A conſiderable preference, however, is reſerved to the French ſhipping and fiſheries. This arret will ſerve alſo to explain in what manner the advantages given to the American States by France have been miſrepreſented and exaggerated.

ARRET *du* CONSEIL *d'*ETAT *du* ROI, *concernant le Commerce étranger dans les iſles Françoiſes de l'Amerique, du* 30 *Août*, 1784.

"Article premier. L'Entrepot ci devant aſſigné au carénage de Sainte Lucie, ſera maintenu pour ladite iſle ſeulement, & il en ſera établi trois nouveaux aux iſles du vent; ſavoir un à Sainte Pierre pour la Martinique, un à la Pointe-à-Pitre pour la Gaudaloupe & dépendances, un à Scarboroug pour Tobago. Il en ſera pareillement ouvert trois pour Saint Domingue, ſavoir un au Cap François, un au Port-au-Prince, un aux Cayes Saint Louis: celui qui exiſte au Mole Saint Nicholas dans la même colonie, ſera & demeurera ſupprimé.

"II. Permet ſa Majeſté, par proviſion & juſqu' à ce qu'il lui plaiſe d'en ordonner autrement, aux navires étrangers, du port de ſoixante tonneaux au moins, uniquement chargés de bois de toute eſpèce, même de bois de teinture, de charbon de terre, d'animaux beſtiaux vivans de toute nature, de ſalaiſons de boeufs & non de porcs, de morue & poiſſon ſalés, de

riz,

1784 riz, mais, légumes, de cuirs verds en poil en tannés, de pelleteries, de réſines & goudron, d'aller dans les ſeuls ports d'entrepôt déſignés par l'article précédent, & d'y décharger & commercer les dites marchandiſes.

"III. Il ſera permis aux navires étrangers qui iront dans les ports d'entrepôt, ſoit pour y porter les marchandiſes permiſes par l'article II. ſoit à vuide d'y charger pour l'étranger, uniquement des ſirops & taffias, & des marchandiſes venues de France.

"IV. Toutes les merchandiſes dont l'importation & l'exportation ſont permiſes à l'étranger dans les dits ports d'entrepôt, ſeront ſoumiſes aux droits locaux, établis ou à établir dans chaque colonie, & payeront en outre un pour cent de leur valeur.

"V. Independamment du droit d'un pour cent, porté en l'article ci-deſſus, les bœufs ſalés, la morue & le poiſſon ſalés, payeront trois livres par quintal; & ſera le produit du dit droit de trois livres, converti en primes d'encouragement, pour l'introduction de la morue & du poiſſon ſalés provenans de la pêche Françoiſe.

"VI. Les chairs ſalés étrangères qui ſeront introduites dans les colonies par des bâtimens François, expédiés directement des ports du royaume, ne ſeront point aſſujetties au payement des droits mentionnés dans les deux articles précédens.

"VII. Il ſera établi dans chaque port d'entrepôt un nombre ſuffiſant de commis, pour veiller à ce qu'il ne ſoit introduit ni exporté d'autres marchandiſes que celles qui ſont ſpécifiées dans les articles II. & III. du preſent arrêt; & afin qu'il ne reſte aucun ſoupçon d'inexactitude dans cette ſurveillance, autoriſe ſa Majeſté les négocians François réſidans dans chacun des dits ports d'entrepôt, ainſi que les capitaines de navires qui pouront ſ'y trouver, à nommer reſpectivement entre eux des commiſſaires, leſquels ſeront chargés de denoncer les négligences ou abus qu'ils pourroient reconnoître, & aſſiſteront, lorſqu'ils l'eſtimeront convenable, à toutes les viſites qui auront lieu, ſoit à l'arrivée, ſoit au départ des navires étrangers, &c."

We cannot, however, but obſerve, that theſe articles do not ſeem calculated by any means to encourage foreign veſſels to go to the French free ports in the Weſt Indies; and the laſt of the above articles ſeems to put foreigners in the power of the French merchants, and French maſters of ſhips. There are twelve other articles which regulate the entry of the foreign veſſels, &c.

The number of ſhips which were employed from England in the whale fiſhery, to Davis's Streights and the Greenland Seas, in the courſe of this year, to 89;—thoſe of Scotland to 4; and thoſe of Holland in the ſame trade, and the ſame period, to 59.

The Canada ſales of this year in London, amounted to 201,000l.

The following gives the exact account of the revenue annually ariſing from the diſtillery in England, from the 5th of July, 1763, to the 5th of July, 1784.

		Corn Diſtillery.				*Melaſſes Diſtillery.*		
Years.		£.	*s.*	*d.*		£.	*s.*	*d.*
1764,	—	382,906	15	8	—	63,020	15	4
1765,	—	385,360	4	0	—	60,165	17	2
1766,	—	436,439	18	9	—	46,930	14	8
1767,	—	342,122	19	3	—	71,044	15	1
1768,	—	370,508	2	6	—	76,250	14	6
1769,	—	440,041	16	3	—	72,481	6	2
1770,	—	455,004	7	4	—	57,956	0	4
1771,	—	442,323	10	0	—	55,323	6	10

Years.	*Corn Diſtillery.* £.	s.	d.	*Melaſſes Diſtillery.* £.	s.	d.
1772,	459,559	1	11	54,346	14	1
1773,	387,632	4	0	57,053	17	11
1774,	345,864	15	1	54,661	5	10
1775,	437,063	1	8	61,348	0	8
1776,	428,108	10	4	80,016	5	9
1777,	452,426	17	0	45,316	19	5
1778,	543,130	16	0	41,112	0	6
1779,	513,253	4	9	8,583	9	0½
1780,	540,881	8	6	18,112	13	0
1781,	548,641	1	1	8,392	10	3
1782,	509,544	10	3	3,584	13	0
1783,	335,713	14	5	2,588	9	4
1784,	371,921	0	3¾	3,831	1	0¾

☞ Of the 371,921l. and 3¾d. ariſing from the corn diſtillery in 1784, it appears that London and its neighbouring diſtricts paid in the following proportions, viz.

	£.	s.	d.
London,	106,091	15	2
Surrey,	39,644	1	11¼
Hertford,	184,628	15	0½
Total of the above-mentioned places,	330,364	12	1¾
Paid by every other part of England,	41,556	8	2
Total,	371,921	0	3¾

By the following account is alſo ſeen the quantity of corn ſpirits made in Scotland as well as the diſpoſal of it, from the 5th of July, 1778, to the 5th of July, 1784.

Years.	*Made in Scotland.* *Tons.*	*Sent to England.* *Tons.*	*Left in Scotland.* *Tons.*
1778,	258	20	238
1779,	350	24	326
1780,	864	135	729
1781,	872	388	484
1782,	1,048	730	318
1783,	773	697	76
1784,	1,141	1,548	

By the above ſtatement there appears to be no leſs than 407 tons ſent to England, from the 5th of July, 1783, to the 5th of July, 1784, which paid no duty: and from the 5th of July to the 1ſt of November, 1784, there was 430 tons made in Scotland, and 669 tons ſent to England, 239 tons of which paid no duty.

The quantity made in Scotland is found by the money paid, and is conſequently preſumptive;—the quantity ſent to England is exactly aſcertained by the equalizing duty paid of 11⅔d. per gallon; and as the real produce or make of corn ſpirit exceeds the preſumptive charge 25

1784 per cent. or as 15 is to 19 in quantity at Hydrometer proof; and the part ſent from Scotland to England is well known to have been at 40 per cent. at leaſt, over Hydrometer proof: in order to ſtate the real quantity of corn ſpirit made in Scotland and ſent to England, it will be right to add 25 per cent. to the preſumptive quantity made in Scotland, and 40 per cent. to the quantity ſent to England, and the difference between the amount of theſe two, will be the quantity that has been conſumed in Scotland, on which duty has been paid. The following is a ſtate of the account according to the foregoing calculation:

Years.	*Made in Scotland at Hydrometer proof.* *Tons.*	*Sent to England at Hydrometer proof.* *Tons.*	*Left in Scotland at Hydrometer proof.* *Tons.*
1778,	322	28	294
1779,	437	33	404
1780,	1,080	189	891
1781,	1,090	543	547
1782,	1,310	1,022	288
1783,	966	975	
1784,	1,426	2,167	

By this ſtatement it appears, that 9 tons, in 1783, and 741 tons, in 1784, were ſent to England more than any duty was paid for: and from the 5th of July to the 1ſt of November, 1784, there was 537 tons made in Scotland at Hydrometer proof, and 936 tons ſent to England, of which 399 tons paid no duty.

The ſtock in hand on the 1ſt of November, 1784, was,	*Gallons.*
Corn ſpirits,	114,234
Melaſſes ditto,	365
Total,	114,599

If the above ſtatement of the diſtillery in Scotland be true, which, it is preſumed, cannot be denied, it appears, that not only all the ſpirit conſumed in Scotland in this year was made free of duty, but that there was ſent into England 1,140 tons more than duty was paid for, excluſive of the quantity by which the ſtock on hand on the 5th of July, 1784, exceeded that of the 5th of July, 1783.

From the ſtate of the Newfoundland fiſhery in this year, it is very evident how much its value is increaſed to this country, from the Americans being deprived of our market. This fiſhery is an object of great importance both to the commerce and to the marine of Great Britain. This ſubject comprehends three diſtinct objects. Firſt, The people employed in taking and curing the fiſh, may, with great propriety, be conſidered as ſo many manufacturers who bring forward a certain commodity or manufacture, which, when perfected, becomes a valuable article of export. Secondly, This trade is certainly a great commercial object, as it gives freight to upwards of 200 ſail of veſſels directly to Europe,—chiefly to Spain, Portugal and Italy,—for neither England, France, nor the northern kingdoms of Europe, take any quantity of the American fiſh;—and thirdly, The Newfoundland fiſhery is, without doubt, the moſt extenſive nurſery for ſeamen, and thoſe of the very beſt ſort. Fiſheries, coaſting trade, and northern voyages produce hardy and intrepid ſeamen: African and Indian voyages deſtroy many and debilitate more. In all the fiſhing veſſels from the weſt of England, Ireland, the

A. D. 1784 iſlands of Guernſey and Jerſey, beſide the ordinary complement of mariners, there are a number of apprentices and hired ſervants employed in taking and curing the fiſh: theſe ſervants and apprentices likewiſe take their turn of the ordinary duty of the ſhip, whereby they ſoon become tolerable ſeamen. Beſides the large veſſels, there are upwards of 2000 boats or ſhallops of from 10 to 20 tons employed in catching fiſh on the banks of Newfoundland, the Gulph of St. Lawrence, Nova Scotia, &c.: theſe ſmall veſſels ſeldom go any diſtance from the land; they chiefly fiſh along ſhore, and on the adjacent banks: in each of them is alſo a number of apprentices and hired ſervants, a part of whoſe time is employed on ſhore in erecting ſtages and in drying and curing the fiſh. In the year 1772, the number of perſons employed in the fiſheries of Newfoundland and our remaining colonies, amounted to about 25,000, including boys, which are more than double the number that were employed in the trade of the American States; and this is excluſive of the ſeamen employed in the other branches of trade in Canada and Nova Scotia. From this nurſery, on the breaking out of a war, our navy has ſeldom failed of receiving a large and ſeaſonable ſupply of men, who, by a little attention of the officers, have ſoon become acquainted with the duty of large ſhips.

From the accounts of the Iriſh fiſhery in this year, we find that the herrings came upon the north-weſt coaſt of Ireland about the laſt week in June, and continued until about the laſt week in September. At firſt they were of ſmall ſize, but increaſed conſiderably; and latterly they were large, but by no means the ſize of the winter herrings. It is almoſt impoſſible to make any kind of ſatisfactory conjecture of the numbers that were taken. There was, for a conſiderable part of that time, no other demand than from the country about thirty miles round, while the take was ſo very great and the demand ſo ſmall, that incredible numbers were thrown away; and, upon an average price for a month, they did not exceed 10d. per thouſand; the number was at times ſo great, that 4d. 5d. or 6d. was the price of an horſe load, and there was no reſtriction as to the load: they were boiled for oil, the price of which was 10d. per gallon, and was very good for lamps. This kind of oil was much uſed by curriers. The number of boats employed in the herring fiſhery was from 70 to 100; and during the height of the ſeaſon, each boat could have taken, at leaſt, as many more as they did, as it was ſeldom neceſſary to ſhoot their nets more than once for the boat load. As to the ſum each boat made, it is ſaid to be about 54l. and computing the price of herrings to be 20d. per thouſand, each boat took 648,000, which, multiplied by 70, the loweſt number of boats employed, makes the number amount to 45,360,000, excluſive of what were boiled for oil and thrown away. It may not, perhaps, be improper to obſerve in this place, that the ſuppoſition of herrings taken in July, Auguſt, and September being incapable of a proper ſtate of curing, on account of their very extraordinary richneſs, is founded in error; as it appears, from experiment, that if a ſufficient quantity of ſalt is uſed, they may be preſerved as well as the winter herrings; but, by not taking proper care, and an injudicious ſaving of ſalt, the commodity has been brought into diſrepute.

The quantity of linen imported from Ireland to England, from the 5th of January, 1783, to the ſame date in the preſent year, amounted to 20,687,528 yards.

The import of iron into Ireland from St. Peterſburg alone, in the courſe of this year, was 2,514 tons, or 50,280 cwt.

The exportation of hats from Ireland to America alone increaſed this year to 11,867.— Neither the Americans nor the French can make good hats for want of rabbits wool in ſufficient quantities.

A. D. 1784 As the political ſtate of Ireland will claim our very particular attention in the ſucceding year, we ſhall give the following abſtract, as containing much uſeful preliminary information on that important ſubject.

An ABSTRACT of the hereditary Revenue and additional Duties, for one Year; with the Expence of Management, Drawbacks, Premiums, &c. from Lady-day, 1783, to Lady-day, 1784.

RECEIPT.

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
BALANCES on the collector's accounts at Lady-day, 1783,	97,062	3	2			
Ditto in the hands of the collectors of exciſe, ſtamp officers, and the paymaſter of corn premiums,	10,807	17	0½			
Arrears on the revenue ſtanding out at ſaid time,	145,251	18	10½			
				253,121	19	4
HEREDITARY REVENUE.						
Cuſtoms inwards,	228,952	3	0½			
Cuſtoms outwards,	28,556	17	3			
Imported exciſe,	146,331	11	5¾			
Prizage on wines,	3,260	0	0			
Light-houſe duties,	741	5	9½			
Fines and ſeizures,	4,502	17	5¼			
Forfeitures,	514	9	4			
Caſualties,	950	1	10			
Inland exciſe,	76,527	2	9			
Ale licenſes,	8,567	9	9¾			
Wine and ſtrong-water licenſes,	27,699	13	4¼			
Storeage,	226	16	6			
Quit, &c. rents,	64,386	2	2⅞			
Hearth-money for the year, payable January 21, 1783,	61,309	13	11			
Proportion of the duties on teas,	7,300	0	0			
				659,826	4	8⅞
ADDITIONAL DUTIES.						
Tobacco,	118,860	9	2½			
Wine,	61,859	16	1			
Muſlin, 1ſt	509	18	11			
Muſlin, 2d	345	13	9			
Romals, foreign	350	13	8			
Paper, foreign,	427	0	1			
Foreign ſilk manufacture,	151	3	2			
Vinegar,	1,674	0	11			
Hops,	7,669	11	1½			
Earthen, japanned, and lacquered wares,	921	10	5			
Sugar, raw	103,971	7	7½			
Sugar, refined,	11,274	6	8			
				308,015	10	8½
Carried forward,				912,948	4	0⅞

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Brought over,			—	912,948	4	0⅞
Five per cent. on foreign dry goods,	3,998	12	10			
Coffee, 2d	311	17	10			
Linen rags exported,	1	11	6			
Six per cent. on retailers,	499	8	9			
Wheat, foreign, imported	490	1	3			
Reſidue of the duties on teas, after applying 7,300l. to the hereditary revenue,	29,279	0	8			
Cider licenſes,	88	0	0			
Ale and beer,	33,057	8	2½			
Beer, imported	1,132	10	1			
Sundry articles in the act for the advancement of trade,	560	19	2			
Duty on carriages for one year, ending Chriſtmas, 1783,	4,917	10	0			
				382,352	11	11
STAMP DUTIES.						
Stamped vellum, parchment and paper, and value of vellum, parchment and paper, and penalties,				34,580	1	2
Total revenue,				1,329,880	17	1⅞

EXPENDITURE.

	£.	s.	d.
Salaries on the revenue eſtabliſhments, incident charges, drawbacks, &c.	175,796	12	5¼
Premiums and bounties,	72,424	7	10¾
Miſcellaneous expences,	13,691	16	7
Drawbacks on additional duties,	16,160	0	8
Salaries to ſtamp officers, incident charges, and diſcount,	8,263	10	6¼
Payments to the vice-treaſurers, in the year ending Lady-day, 1784,	772,313	17	2¼
Balances and arrears at Lady-day, 1784,	271,230	11	9⅞
Total expenditure,	1,329,880	17	1⅞

The following account of the population of the American ſtates has the authority of Congreſs. It ſeems, however to be only a general eſtimate, if we except Rhode Iſland and Connecticut, which appear to be more exactly enumerated; the reſt, it is acknowledged, are ſet too high, and that the ſlaves are included. The beſt accounts ſtate the number of whites in the American ſtates as not exceeding 1,700,000.—The artifice of repreſenting them as near 3,000,000, at the beginning of the war, is not now denied.

An Eſtimate of the Inhabitants of the United States of America, to be made the Baſis of an Aſſeſſment in the reſpective States.

States.	*Inhabitants.*	*Proportion of* 1000.
New Hampſhire,	82,200	34
Maſſachuſet's Bay,	350,000	147
Rhode Iſland,	50,400	21

Connecticut,

States.	*Inhabitants.*	*Proportion of* 1000.
Connecticut,	206,000	86
New York,	200,000	84
New Jerſey,	130,000	54
Pennſylvania,	320,000	134
Delaware,	35,0000	15
Maryland,	220,700	92
Virginia,	400,000	167
North Carolina,	200,000	84
South Carolina,	170,000	71
Georgia,	25,000	11
Total,	2,389,300	1000

An authentic account of corn and grain exported from, and imported into England and Scotland this year.

EXPORTED.			*IMPORTED.*	
1784.	*Britiſh* *Qrs.*	*Foreign* *Qrs.*	1784.	*Quarters.*
ENGLAND.			ENGLAND.	
Wheat,	35,446	6,955	Wheat,	169,810
Wheat Flour,	38,867	2,139	Wheat Flour,	4,783
Rye,	5,821	800	Rye,	23,722
Barley,	18,676	2,747	Barley,	43,729
Malt,	45,415	—	—	—
Oats,	8,527	1,087	Oats,	175,765
Oat-meal,	2,752	—	Oat-meal,	648
Beans,	7,309	613	Beans,	28,047
Peas,	2,747	118	Peas,	2,915
			Indian corn,	46
SCOTLAND.			SCOTLAND.	
Wheat,	3,003	—	Wheat,	42,109
Wheat Flour,	2,877	—	Wheat Flour,	245
Bear,	2,740	—	—	—
Rye,	110	—	Rye,	1,057
Barley,	50	—	Barley,	33,453
Oats,	1,073	—	Oats,	78,962
Oatmeal,	71	—	Oatmeal,	11,623
Peas and Beans,	189	—	Peas,	14,854

The bounties on corn and grain exported from England in the courſe of this year, amounted to 22,669l. 18s. 3½d.

The drawbacks, during the ſame period, were 255l. 3s. 5d.

The amount of the bounties paid on corn and grain exported from Scotland, during the ſame time, was 950l. 6s. 3d.

The duties on corn imported into England, was 7,406l. 15s. 5d.; and, in Scotland, they amounted to 2,522l. 15s. 3d.

A. D. 1784 The average prices of corn in England and Wales, by the ſtandard Wincheſter buſhel, for this year, was as follows :—

Wheat, 6s. 1¼d. ; rye, 4s. 0¼d. ; barley, 3s. 5¾d. ; oats, 2s. 3½d. ; beans, 4s. 0¼d.

The following are the variations of the public funds during this year, with the higheſt and loweſt prices arranged oppoſite to each month.

	Bank Stock.	3 per cent. reduc	3 per cent. conſol	4 per cent. conſol	Long Ann	Ann. 1778	India Stock.	India Bonds.	S Sea Old Ann.	S Sea New Ann.	Nav Bills	3 per cent. Scrip	4 per cent. Scrip	Exchequer Bills.
January,	111	55⅛	57¾	—	16½	—	118½	53 s.	—	—	17¾	57⅛	—	——
	113¼	57⅞	53⅞	—	17½	—	120½	42	—	—	12½	58⅜	—	——
February,	113	57	57⅞	74¼	16⅞	12⅛	122½	40	57½	56	20	58⅝	—	4 s.
	116	58⅞	55⅛	75⅝	17¾	12½	133½	25	57		18⅞		—	10
March,	116	56⅛	56⅛	75¼	17¼	12¼	127½	30	57⅞	58	18½	—	—	6
	118	59⅜	60¾	76⅝	18⅜	12¾	129½	7	59½	57¼	16	—	—	2
April,	116½	57⅝	59½	75⅞	17¼	12⅞	129	22	—	56⅞	19	—	—	1
	116⅜	58	58	75¼	17¾	12⅛	127	9	—	58⅛	17¼	—	—	2
May,	116⅛	58	58¾	74⅛	17⅞	12½	122¾	7	58	57¾	14	—	—	——
	115	57⅜	57⅝	74⅞	17½	12⅝	124	13	56⅝		17	—	—	——
June,	115	57½	57⅞	74⅝	17½	12⅝	——	9	56¾	58	18	—	—	1
	116	58¾	59¼	75⅛	17¾	12¾	——	19	57⅜	57¾	14⅞	—	—	3
July,	113¾	56⅞	59	74⅞	17⅛	12⅛	122½	21	—	—	14½	56¾	74	——
	116	58⅞	55¾	73	17½	12¾	119	3	—	—	17½	58¼	75⅜	——
Auguſt,	116	58⅝	57¼	74¼	17⅜	12	122½	7	56⅞	56⅝	15½	57⅝	75	2
	116½	57⅛	56⅛	74⅝	17⅛	12¾		4			12¼	56⅜	75¼	1
Septemb.	117¼	57¼	56¼	74½	17¼	12⅜	127½	6	56⅛	55⅛	13¾	56¾	74⅜	2
	117½	56⅑	54⅞	74	16½	12¼	125½	1	55½	54¾	15¼	55⅛	73⅞	
October,	110	54	54⅛	70¼	16⅜	12⅛	128	4	—	53¾	—	55⅜	—	2
	111¾	54½	55¾	70½	16⅞	12	126¾	2	—		—	54⅜	—	1
Novemb.	112	53⅜	54¼	—	16⅝	12	——	1	54⅜	—	—	54⅝	—	3
	110½	55⅞	56⅛	—	17⅛	12⅜	——	3	54	—	—	56¼	—	
Decemb.	113¾	55¼	54¾	—	17¼	12¼	——	1	54⅞	55¼	—	56⅛	—	3
	112⅛	55½	56½	—	17⅛	12½	——	7	54⅝		—	55¾	—	

The following bills relative to trade and commerce received the royal aſſent in the fourth ſeſſion of the fifteenth Parliament of Great Britain :—

A bill to continue, for a limited time, an act made in the laſt ſeſſion of Parliament, entitled "An act for preventing certain inſtruments from being required from ſhips belonging to the United States of America ; and to give to his Majeſty, for a limited time, certain powers for the better carrying on trade and commerce between the ſubjects of his Majeſty's dominions and the inhabitants of the ſaid United States."

To continue ſo much of an act made in the laſt ſeſſion of Parliament, as allows further time for the payment of certain ſums due, and to become due to the public from the Eaſt India Company.

To explain and amend an act made in the laſt ſeſſion of Parliament, entitled, "An act for repealing an act made in the 22d of his preſent Majeſty, entitled, An act for charging a ſtamp duty upon inland bills of exchange, promiſſory notes, or other notes, payable otherwiſe than upon demand ; and for granting new ſtamp duties on bills of exchange, promiſſory, and other notes, and alſo ſtamp duties on receipts :" and for indemnifying all perſons who have written or ſigned any bill of exchange, promiſſory or other note, or any receipt not ſtamped according to law.

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1784 To eſtabliſh certain regulations concerning the poſtage and conveyance of letters and packets between Great Britain and Ireland.

To continue the proviſions of an act of the 23d of his preſent Majeſty, for granting a bounty upon the exportation of Britiſh and Iriſh buckrams, &c. Britiſh and Iriſh linens, Britiſh calicoes and cottons, or cotton mixed with linen, printed, painted, ſtained, or dyed in Great Britain, for a limited time.

The following bills, among others, received the royal aſſent in the firſt ſeſſion of the ſixteenth Parliament of Great Britain :—

A bill for further continuing, for a limited time, an act of the 23d of his preſent Majeſty, entitled, " An act for preventing certain inſtruments from being required from ſhips belonging to the United States of America," &c. &c.

To empower the Eaſt India Company to make a dividend to the proprietors of Eaſt India ſtock at Midſummer, 1784.

To enable the governor and company of the bank of Scotland further to increaſe the capital ſtock of the ſaid company.

To appoint and enable commiſſioners further to examine, take, and ſtate the public accounts of the kingdom.

To revive and continue an act of the 12th of his preſent Majeſty, for encouraging the manufacture of leather, by lowering the duty payable upon oak bark, when the price of ſuch bark ſhall exceed a certain rate, for a limited time ; and for extending ſeveral acts of Parliament relative to the manufacture of leather to Scotland.

For the preſervation and encouragement of the hat manufactory in this kingdom, by preventing the exportation of Britiſh hare-ſkins, Britiſh hare-wool, and Britiſh coney-wool, and all undreſſed or untawed Britiſh coney-ſkins ; and for preventing any of the ſaid ſkins from being ſtained or dyed ; and for the importation of goats-hair into this kingdom, duty free.

For diſcontinuing the petty cuſtom on aliens goods imported into Great Britain, and the duty of one per cent. on goods exported to, or imported from the Mediterranean ſeas, in unqualified ſhips ; and for repealing ſo much of an act paſſed in the 4th of his preſent Majeſty, as enacts that no part of the old ſubſidy ſhall be drawn back upon goods exported to the Britiſh colonies or plantations in America.

To poſtpone the payment of the ſum of two millions advanced by the governor and company of the bank of England, towards the ſupply for the ſervice of the year 1781.

For the better regulation and management of the affairs of the Eaſt India Company, and of the Britiſh poſſeſſions in India ; and for eſtabliſhing a court of judicature for the more ſpeedy and effectual trial of perſons accuſed of offences committed in the Eaſt Indies.

For granting to his Majeſty additional duties on linens printed, painted, ſtained, or dyed in Great Britain ; and for granting certain duties on cotton ſtuffs, bleached or dyed in Great Britain, and on licences for bleaching or dying the ſame ; and upon the importation of ſtuffs made of, or mixed with cotton, not painted, printed, ſtained or dyed in foreign parts.

For granting to his Majeſty certain duties on licences to be taken out by perſons vending hats by retail, and alſo certain duties on hats ſold under ſuch licences ; and for laying additional duties on all hats and caps imported into this kingdom.

For granting to his Majeſty certain duties on all gold and ſilver plate imported ; and alſo certain duties on all gold and ſilver wrought plate made in Great Britain.

For

A. D. 1784 For repealing the preſent duties upon wax-candles made in Great Britain, and for granting other duties in lieu thereof, and upon wax imported, as alſo upon licences to make or ſell wax-candles in Great Britain.

To diſcontinue, for a limited time, the payment of the duties upon low wines and ſpirits for home conſumption, and for granting and ſecuring the due payment thereof; and for the better regulation of the making and vending Britiſh ſpirits, as well for home conſumption as for exportation; and for deſtroying all home-made and foreign ſpirits after the condemnation thereof; and for veſting in his Majeſty the duties of exciſe within the lands of Farintoſh, in Roſs-ſhire; and for diſcontinuing, for a limited time, certain impoſts and duties upon rum and ſpirits imported from the Weſt Indies.

For the relief of the Eaſt India Company with reſpect to certain ſums due to the public, and to the acceptance of certain bills drawn upon the ſaid Company, and for regulating the dividends to be made by the ſaid Company.

For the more effectual prevention of ſmuggling in this kingdom.

To extend the powers of an act of the 23d of his preſent Majeſty, for giving his Majeſty certain powers for the better carrying on trade and commerce between the ſubjects of his Majeſty and the inhabitants of the United States of America, &c.

To revive and continue ſeveral laws relating to the allowing the exportation of certain quantities of wheat, and other articles, to his Majeſty's ſugar colonies in America, and to the allowing a drawback of the duties on rum ſhipped as ſtores to be conſumed on board merchant ſhips on their voyages; and to extend the proviſions of an act of the 23d of his preſent Majeſty, relative to the removal of wine in caſks, to wine removed in bottles, and other packages.

For granting certain additional rates of poſtage for conveyance of letters and packets by the poſt, within the kingdom of Great Britain; for preventing frauds in the revenue, carried on by the conveyance of certain goods in letters and packets, and for further preventing frauds and abuſes in relation to the ſending and receiving of letters and packets free from poſtage.

For granting additional duties upon raw and thrown ſilk imported into Great Britain; and upon lead exported from Great Britain; and for allowing a drawback upon the exportation of ſilks, and ſtuffs mixed with ſilk.

For repealing the ſeveral duties on tea, and for granting to his Majeſty other duties in lieu thereof; and alſo ſeveral duties on inhabited houſes; and upon the importation of cocoa nuts and coffee, and for repealing the inland duties of exciſe thereon.

To explain, amend, and render more effectual, an act of the 30th of George II. entitled, "An act for the more effectual puniſhment of perſons who ſhall attain, or attempt to attain poſſeſſion of goods or money by falſe or untrue pretences; for preventing the unlawful pawning of goods; for the eaſy redemption of goods pawned; and for preventing gaming in public-houſes by journeymen, labourers, ſervants, and apprentices,"—ſo far as the ſame relates to the preventing of the unlawful pawning of goods, and for the eaſy redemption of goods pawned.

During the war, we thought it neceſſary to give all the articles of the annual account of ſupplies in detail, in order more fully to ſhew the immenſity and variety of the national reſources, and their mode of application; but peace being now eſtabliſhed, and the items of public expenditure being ſubject to little variation, we ſhall curtail that part of our information, and confine it, in a great meaſure, to the general articles and aggregate ſums which compoſe the current ſupplies of the year.

1784 SUPPLIES granted by Parliament for this year:—

	£.	s.	d.
For the navy,	3,153,869	0	6
For the army,	4,080,220	13	9⅝
For the ordnance,	610,149	8	11
Miſcellaneous ſervices,	2,467,226	11	2¼
Deficiencies,	1,676,708	15	0
Total Supplies,	11,988,174	9	4⅞

The WAYS and MEANS for raiſing the foregoing ſupplies.

	£.	s.	d.
Land tax and duty on malt,	2,750,000	0	0
Annuities and a lottery,	6,360,000	0	0
Savings in the ſeveral army ſervices,	441,702	13	9½
Loans and Exchequer bills,	2,500,000	0	0
The ſinking fund,	800,000	0	0
Remaining in the Exchequer,	105,818	5	11¼
Total of Ways and Means,	12,957,520	19	8¾
Total amount of Supplies granted,	11,988,174	9	4⅞
Exceſs of Ways and Means,	969,346	10	3⅞

The following additional duties and new taxes were impoſed this year:—

	£.	s.	d.
Candles, one halfpenny per pound,	100,000	0	0
Bricks, 2s. 6d. per 1000; and tiles, from 3s. to 30s. per 1000,	50,000	0	0
Hats, from 3d. to 2s. and licences for vending the ſame,	150,000	0	0
Pleaſure horſes, 10s. per head; running ditto, 2l. 2s.	100,000	0	0
Britiſh linens and cottons, from ¼d. to 1s. per yard, and licences for bleaching and dying the ſame,	120,000	0	0
Ribbands, from 1d. for every 12 yards, to 1d. per yard; and gauzes, from 2d. to 4d. per yard,	120,000	0	0
Licences for retailing beer, ale, and other exciſeable liquors; and to the makers and dealers in certain exciſeable commodities, from 10s. to 50l.	110,000	0	0
Qualifications of ſhooters, 2l. 2s. per head; and deputations from lords of manors, 10s. per head,	10,000	0	0
Paper, from 1d. to 10s. per ream, and paſteboards, millboards, &c.	18,000	0	0
Hackney-coaches, 5s. per week,	12,000	0	0
Silver plate, 6d. per ounce; and gold plate, 8s. per ounce,	25,000	0	0
Lead exported, 1l. 1s. per ton,	15,000	0	0
Poſtage of letters, 1d. and 2d.; and regulations of franking,	120,000	0	0
Raw and thrown ſilk imported, 2s. and 3s. per pound.			
Total of additional and new taxes,	950,000	0	0
Intereſt of the loan of 6,000,000l.	280,000	0	0
Exceſs of taxes,	670,000	0	0

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IMPORTS and EXPORTS, from CHRISTMAS 1783, to CHRISTMAS 1784.

COUNTRIES.	IMPORTS.			EXPORTS.		
Africa,	£. 119,152	—	1	£. 523,985	16	2
Canaries,	4,840	—	11	5,150	6	11
Denmark and Norway,	117,477	11	11	261,998	11	8
Eaſt Country,	657,337	2	3	68,612	12	9
Eaſt Indies,	2,996,652	2	11	730,858	3	7
Flanders,	279,839	17	8	849,893	13	1
France,	70,807	8	—	152,539	12	6
Germany,	504,179	19	11	1,245,438	6	3
Holland,	522,177	10	9	1,277,480	6	3
Ireland,	1,777,984	15	5	1,634,568	11	7
Iſle of Man,	13,246	6	10	54,174	12	3
Italy,	663,124	16	6	474,743	—	2
Madeira,	2,445	2	4	19,321	1	9
Portugal,	370,535	2	10	495,572	6	5
Ruſſia,	1,529,036	6	1	226,461	—	10
Spain,	646,526	—	11	808,689	16	7
Gibraltar,	1,421	12	6	52,840	8	6
Streights,	—	—	—	207,015	6	4
Sweden,	214,002	4	8	57,590	9	1
Turkey,	75,167	17	1	43,052	13	8
Venice,	57,878	14	2	19,103	15	10
Greenland,	62,288	3	—	—	—	—
Iſland of Alderney,	123	5	10	2,541	13	7
Iſland of Guernſey,	23,804	13	8	51,546	6	4
Iſland of Jerſey,	13,362	5	10	30,156	1	4
Iſland of Sark,	—	—	—	199	—	—
Canada,	78,754	10	4	238,582	10	10
Cape Breton,	—	—	—	1,331	10	6
Carolina,	167,545	4	2	492,833	14	4
Florida,	18,108	4		—	—	—
Georgia,	22,888	14	—	47,230	15	3
Hudſon's Bay,	7,683	9	5	8,937	8	1
New England,	51,078	13	3	526,560	15	11
Newfoundland,	52,719	9	2	177,233	9	5
New York,	47,302	18	9	709,547	11	6
Nova Scotia,	13,200	11	8	297,411	4	1
Pennſylvania,	70,263	10	9	689,491	9	9
Iſland of St. John, Gulf of St. Laurence,	—	—	—	808	14	7
Virginia & Maryland,	390,250	6	1	1,182,346	13	1
Anguilla,	3,632	15	1	82,586	18	8
Antigua,	253,235	2	3	—	—	—
Bahamas,	8,383	3	6	54,045	10	2
Barbadoes,	127,215	18	1	121,168	18	2
Bermuda,	1,111	3	10	13,386	15	7
Dominica,	150,992	16	5	55,510	12	8
Grenada,	530,363	16	10	99,969	18	5
Honduras Bay,	12,493	2	9	2,173	19	2
Jamaica,	1,690,674	8	8	682,318	12	7
Montſerrat,	62,705	4	2	13,423	18	2
Muſquito Shore,	1,692	—	—	2,520	14	4
Nevis,	76,913	1	2	11,068	14	7
St. Croix,	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Euſtatius,	—	—	—	9,618	14	—
St. Kitt's,	254,203	12	8	73,356	3	3
St. Lucia,	75,255	10	6	2,491	12	—
St. Thomas's,	—	—	—	815	16	9
St. Vincent's,	107,902	19	2	33,174	9	2
Tobago,	57,412	2	7	13,496	7	3
Tortola,	123,580	19	1	24,002	9	2
Demerara,	656	16	10	—	—	—
St. Domingo,	2,755	10	—	—	—	—
Surinam,	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Martin's,	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cape Francois,	—	—	—	—	—	—
Havannah,	—	—	—	—	—	—
New Orleans,	—	—	—	—	—	—
Buenos Ayres,	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northern Fiſhery,	10	11	5	—	—	—
Southern Fiſhery,	4,736	—	—	179	17	7
Foreign coin and bullion,	—	—	—	632,571	7	6
Prize goods,	83,643	11	7	140,110	8	—
Total,	15,272,776	19	5	15,733,847	7	11

1784 **An account of the chriſtenings and burials within the bills of mortality in London, for this year.**

Chriſtened, males	8,778	Buried, males	9,229
——— females	8,401	——— females	8,599
	17,179		17,828

1785 A ſubject of the very firſt magnitude, under the title of the Iriſh Propoſitions, claimed the particular attention of the public, and occupied the diligence of Parliament in the early part of this year.

A very unjuſt and oppreſſive ſpecies of policy had long been exerciſed by the Britiſh government in regard to Ireland, by which ſhe had been debarred from the enjoyment and the uſe of her own reſources, and to make her entirely ſubſervient to the intereſts and opulence of this country. She had not been ſuffered to ſhare in the bounties of nature, or the induſtry of her citizens: ſhe was ſhut out from every ſpecies of commerce, and reſtrained from ſending the produce of her own ſoil to foreign markets. Some ſmall relaxation of this ſyſtem had, indeed, taken place at an early period of the preſent century, and ſomething more had been done in the reign of George II.; but it was not till a time nearer to our own days, and, indeed, within the laſt ſeven years, that the ſyſtem had been completely reverſed. Still, however, notwithſtanding all that had been done reſpecting the foreign commerce of Ireland, the intercourſe between the two countries remained without alteration: Ireland was, therefore, ſtill diſſatisfied; ſo that in the metropolis of that kingdom, and elſewhere, ideas had been ſtarted of impoſing duties on the produce of Britiſh manufactures, under the name of protecting duties; and as ſuch a meaſure, which had been ſuggeſted by the ſituation and emergencies of the country, was conſidered as inconſiſtent with the general welfare, it was abſolutely neceſſary that judicious and effectual ſubſtitution ſhould be made in its place.

In conſequence of this ſituation of affairs, previous to the meeting of the Iriſh Parliament, in January 1785, the Britiſh cabinet, in concert with the commiſſioners appointed on the part of Ireland, had formed a plan for regulating and finally adjuſting the commercial intercourſe between the two kingdoms.

This new ſyſtem of commerce between Great Britain and Ireland, was accordingly firſt introduced into the Parliament of the latter kingdom, on the 7th of February, by Mr. Orde, Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant, in the form of the following ten propoſitions; which, by a ſmall alteration and diſtribution of the ſubject of one of them into two heads, were encreaſed to eleven. Theſe propoſitions paſſed the committee of the whole Houſe on the 11th of February, and on the 12th, they were reported, and followed up by an addreſs to the Sovereign, expreſſive of their fervent gratitude, and the ſanguine hope with which they looked forward to the complete execution of ſo wiſe and liberal an arrangement. The concurrence of the Houſe of Peers being alſo obtained, theſe regulations were tranſmitted immediately to England, as the propoſed baſis of an equitable and final adjuſtment between the two countries.

The Reſolutions paſſed by the Iriſh Houſe of Commons.

"I. Reſolved,—That it is the opinion of this committee, that it is highly important to the general intereſt of the Britiſh empire, that the trade between Great Britain and Ireland be encouraged and extended as much as poſſible;—and, for that purpoſe, that the intercourſe and

1785 commerce be finally ſettled and regulated on permanent and equitable principles, for the mutual benefit of both countries.

"II. That, towards carrying into full effect ſo deſirable a ſettlement, it is fit and proper that all articles, not the growth or manufacture of Great Britain or Ireland, ſhould be imported into each kingdom from the other reciprocally, under the ſame regulations, and at the ſame duties, if ſubject to duties, to which they are liable when imported directly from the place of their growth, product, or manufacture; and that all duties originally paid on the importation, into either country reſpectively, ſhall be fully drawn back on exportation to the other.

"III. That for the ſame purpoſe, it is proper that no prohibition ſhould exiſt, in either country, againſt the importation, uſe, or ſale of any article, the growth, product, or manufacture of the other; and that the duty on the importation of every ſuch article, if ſubject to duty in either country, ſhould be preciſely the ſame in one country as in the other, except where an addition may be neceſſary in either country, in conſequence of an internal duty on any ſuch article of its own conſumption.

"IV. That in all caſes where the duties on articles of the growth, product, or manufacture of either country are different on the importation into the other, it would be expedient that they ſhould be reduced in the kingdom where they are the higheſt, to the amount payable in the other; and that all ſuch articles ſhould be exportable from the kingdom into which they ſhall be imported, as free from ſuch duty as the ſimilar commodities or home manufacture of the ſame kingdom.

"V. That for the ſame purpoſe it is alſo proper, that in all caſes where either kingdom ſhall charge articles of its own conſumption with an internal duty on the manufacture, or a duty on the material, the ſame manufacture, when imported from the other, may be charged with a further duty on importation to the ſame amount as the internal duty on the manufacture, or to an amount adequate to countervail the duty on the material; and ſhall be entitled to ſuch drawbacks or bounties on exportation, as may leave the ſame ſubject to no heavier burthens than the home-made manufacture: ſuch further duty to continue ſo long as the internal conſumption ſhall be charged with the duty or duties to balance which it ſhall be impoſed, or until the manufacture coming from the other kingdom, ſhall be ſubjected there to an equal burthen, not drawn back or compenſated on exportation.

"VI. That, in order to give permanency to the ſettlement now intended to be eſtabliſhed, it is neceſſary that no prohibition, or new additional duties, ſhould be hereafter impoſed in either kingdom, on the importation of any article of the growth, product, or manufacture of the other, except ſuch additional duties as may be requiſite to balance duties on internal conſumption, purſuant to the foregoing reſolution.

"VII. That, for the ſame purpoſe, it is further neceſſary, that no prohibitions, or new and additional duties, ſhould be hereafter impoſed in either kingdom, on the exportation of any article of native growth, product, or manufacture from thence to the other, except ſuch as either kingdom may deem expedient, from time to time, upon corn, meal, malt, flour, and biſcuit; and alſo except where there now exiſts any prohibition which is not reciprocal, or any duty which is not equal in both kingdoms: in every ſuch caſe, the prohibition may be reciprocal, or the duties raiſed, ſo as to make them equal.

"VIII. That, for the ſame purpoſe, it is neceſſary that no bounties whatever ſhould be paid or payable in either kingdom, on the exportation of any article to the other, except ſuch as relate to corn, meal, malt, flour, and biſcuits; and ſuch as are in the nature of drawbacks, 1785 or compenſation for duties paid; and that no bounty ſhould be granted in this kingdom on the exportation of any article imported from the Britiſh plantations, or any manufacture made of ſuch article, unleſs in caſes where a ſimilar bounty is payable in Britain on exportation from thence, or where ſuch bounty is merely in the nature of a drawback, or compenſation of or for duties paid, over and above any duties paid thereon in Britain.

"IX. That it is expedient, for the general benefit of the Britiſh empire, that the importation of articles from foreign ſtates ſhould be regulated, from time to time, in each kingdom, on ſuch terms as may afford an effectual preference to the importation of ſimilar articles of the growth, produce, or manufacture of the other.

"X. That it is eſſential to the commercial intereſts of this country to prevent, as much as poſſible, an accumulation of national debt; that, therefore, it is highly expedient that the annual revenue of this kingdom, ſhould be made equal to its annual expence.

"XI. That, for the better protection of trade, whatever ſum the groſs hereditary revenue of this kingdom, (after deducting all drawbacks, re-payments, or bounties granted in the nature of drawbacks) ſhall produce over and above the ſum of 656,000l. in each year of peace, wherein the annual revenue ſhall equal the annual expence, and in each year of war, without regard to ſuch equality, ſhould be appropriated towards the ſupport of the naval force of the empire, in ſuch manner as the Parliament of the kingdom ſhall direct."

Very ſhortly after the arrival of theſe reſolutions in England, they were regularly opened by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to the Parliament of Great Britain.

There was but one opinion in the nation as to the neceſſity of ſome kind of commercial ſettlement between Great Britain and the ſiſter kingdom: and that the fixing this trading intercourſe between the two countries on a firm, liberal and permanent baſis, by which an end might for ever be put to jealouſies and clamour, by which all future pretexts to diſcontent might be removed, and by which the cureſt foundations of future ſtrength and opulence might be laid, was one of the moſt important topics which could be agitated in Parliament, and one of the moſt deſirable objects that the deliberative wiſdom of Parliament could obtain.

On theſe principles Mr. Pitt ſupported the commercial arrangements ſuggeſted in the propoſitions, in a ſpeech of conſiderable length, which he concluded with moving the following general reſolution. "That it was highly important to the general intereſts of the empire, that the commercial intercourſe between Great Britain and Ireland ſhould be finally adjuſted, and that Ireland ſhould be admitted to a permanent and irrevocable participation of the commercial advantages of this country, when the Parliament of Ireland ſhall permanently and irrevocably ſecure an aid out of the hereditary revenue of that kingdom, towards defraying the expence of protecting the general commerce of the empire in time of peace."

After taking a review of what had already been granted to Ireland by the Britiſh legiſlature, the Chancellor of the Exchequer proceeded to examine the ſubject then in agitation, under the two following heads:

Firſt, As to the effects of the commercial arrangements, contained in the propoſitions, on our particular commerce and manufactures,—as they regarded our navigation laws and the monopoly of our trade with our colonies, and as they related to the intercourſe between the two countries by the equaliſing of duties.

Secondly, As to the effects of an extenſion of the trade of Britain, in the return which Ireland would make towards the common expence.

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With regard to the firſt, he was aware that it poſſeſſed the appearance of militating againſt the navigation laws, the ſource of our maritime ſtrength and commercial opulence: but that it did not oppoſe the ſpirit of thoſe laws is evident from a ſhort ſtatement of the fact. Goods, the produce of Europe, might now be imported through Ireland into Britain by the expreſs authority of the navigation act. The new propoſition applied only to Africa and America, for Aſia was excluded, as the Eaſt India Company had the monopoly of the trade of that part of the world. We had already given to Ireland the direct intercourſe to our colonies; and the liberty now to be added, was nothing more than that of bringing to Britain circuitouſly, what ſhe had herſelf the privilege of bringing directly. The enquiry, therefore, to be made was, whether there was any thing in the local ſituation of the ports of Ireland, which could enable her to make this circuitous voyage cheaper than we could make the direct one. There was ſtill another circumſtance of conſideration:—Ireland could now ſend a cargo to the Weſt Indies, and bring a cargo directly from thence to Britain; or ſhe could invoice a part of her cargo to Britain and a part to Ireland. In ſhort, what was there in the trifling addition to theſe immunities made by the propoſitions, that could awaken the apprehenſions of a ſober merchant or a ſound politician.

The other leading meaſure, at this time, before Parliament, was the equaliſing the duties in the produce and manufactures of both countries. The reſult of this Mr. Pitt undertook to explain. Prohibitory duties were, at preſent, impoſed in Britain on the majority of the manufactures of Ireland; linen, however, was a liberal exception: on the contrary, our manufactures had been imported into Ireland at low duties: a queſtion might therefore be put, whether, under the accumulation of our heavy taxes, it would be wiſe to equalize the duties, and thus to enable a country free from thoſe taxes to meet and overthrow us in their own markets and in ours? To this it might be anſwered, that it was not to be expected that Ireland, with an independent legiſlature, would ſubmit to be treated with ſubjection and inferiority; a generous effort was to be made by this country, and we were to chuſe between inevitable alternatives. But in reality was it, in a great degree, to be apprehended, that a country incapable of ſupplying herſelf, ſhould prove formidable to us in a foreign market? Our manufactures were ſo decidedly ſuperior to theirs both in workmanſhip and ſkill, that the immunity propoſed to be granted would be productive of little alteration. The low price of labour in Ireland might, it is true, be urged with ſome degree of probability: but it would require time for the acquiſition of both capital and ſkill; and the capital could not increaſe without the demand: but, in an eſtabliſhed manufacture, improvement was ſo rapid as to bid defiance to rivalſhip. Beſides, as the manufactures and commerce of Ireland encreaſed, the difference between the price of labour would be inceſſantly diminiſhing. After all, there might be ſome branches of manufacture in which Ireland might rival, and perhaps excel England: but, in a matter of general benefit, we ſhould calculate from general and not from partial views; and above all, we ſhould learn not to regard Ireland with an eye of jealouſy. It required little philoſophy to reconcile us to a competition, which would give us a rich cuſtomer inſtead of a poor one. Beſides, the proſperity of the ſiſter kingdom would be a freſh ſpring for our own trade.

Such was the general outline of the propoſed ſyſtem on its firſt appearance, and the magnitude of it was, probably, the reaſon why it was received at firſt in this country with ſo much tranquillity and acquieſcence. The extenſive views of the object it embraced, occaſioned a diffident and becoming pauſe in the minds of the people. Three weeks elapſed, without almoſt a ſingle petition being preſented to the Houſe of Commons, againſt the ſyſtem which had been opened by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. In the interim, a report prepared by a committee of council appointed for the conſideration of all matters relative to trade and foreign plantations, was laid by the miniſter on the table of the Houſe of Commons to aſſiſt its deliberations. This committee had been originally appointed on the 5th day of March, 1784, and conſiſted of Lord Sydney, who preſided, the firſt Lord of the Admiralty, the Paymaſters of the Army, the Treaſurer of the Navy, and fourteen other members of the Privy Council: Mr. Charles Jenkinſon, (ſince created Lord Hawkeſbury) was conſidered as the moſt active member and real director of this board. The queſtions referred to their conſideration, related entirely to the latter of the two heads, into which Mr. Pitt has diſtributed the benefits conceded to Ireland, and principally concerned the propriety of reducing the duties payable in this country, upon the importation of goods, the growth and manufacture of Ireland.

This report, after a variety of ſtatements which are of too great a length to inſert in this place, concludes with anſwering the two queſtions referred to the committees by his Majeſty, and with the propoſition of a plan for regulating the future commercial intercourſe between Great Britain and Ireland, as follows:

" The committee having thus laid before your Majeſty the information they have received; and having ſtated ſuch obſervations as appeared to them to be neceſſary, for the purpoſe of explaining the accounts and pointing out any miſtakes in the evidence given, it is their duty now to offer their opinion on the firſt queſtion referred to them; that is, on the propriety of reducing the duties payable in Great Britain on the importation of goods, the growth and manufacture of Ireland, at the ſame rate as the duties payable in Ireland on the importation of the like goods the growth and manufacture of Great Britain.

" The committee think it right to begin by obſerving, that ſince the conſtitution of Ireland has been put on its preſent footing, it is not probable that the people of that kingdom will reſt ſatisfied with the ſame ſyſtem of commerce that ſubſiſted before that alteration was made; for though the Parliament of Ireland, in their laſt ſeſſion, rejected the duties that were propoſed for the protection of their woollen manufactures, they impoſed a duty on four other articles of Britiſh commerce, viz. on refined ſugar, on beer, wine, and printed callicoes, for the expreſs purpoſe of encouraging their trade in theſe ſeveral articles.

" And it appears, that the two Houſes of Parliament of Great Britain were of opinion, that, in conſequence of the change made in the Iriſh conſtitution, ſome new arrangement would be neceſſary; for, on the 17th of May, 1782, after having reſolved, that an act made in the ſixth year of the reign of his late Majeſty King George the Firſt, entitled, ' An Act for the better ' ſecuring the dependency of the Kingdom of Ireland upon the Crown of Great Britain,' ought to be repealed, they came immediately to the following reſolution:—' That it is indiſ' penſable to the intereſt and happineſs of both kingdoms, that the connection between them ' ſhould be eſtabliſhed on a ſolid and permanent baſis.'

" The preſent queſtion, therefore, is not whether the ſyſtem of commerce, on which your Majeſty has required the opinion of the committee, is better or worſe than that which exiſted before the change made in the Iriſh conſtitution, but whether it is better than that which, if ſome agreement is not made, is likely now to take place.

" It appears to the committee, that in arranging the commercial intercourſe in future between the two kingdoms, there are but three plans that can poſſibly be adopted.

" Firſt, That the ports of each kingdom ſhould be open to goods the growth and manufacture of the other, free from all duties, except thoſe of exciſe and other internal duties.

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" As there are certain articles of commerce in which each country has a decided advantage, it is probable that ſuch a plan would occaſion the ruin of many of your Majeſty's ſubjects in Great Britain and Ireland, and introduce an immediate convulſion in the commerce of the two kingdoms.

" The ſecond plan is, That each kingdom ſhould, for the future, proceed in making ſuch regulations, and impoſing ſuch duties on the importation of goods, the growth or manufacture of the other, as their reſpective legiſlatures ſhall, in their wiſdom, think neceſſary for the protection and improvement of their own commerce.

" This plan, which will probably be followed if ſome agreement is not made, will be the ſource of perpetual diſſenſions; will neceſſarily tend to ſeparate each country further from the other; and, in a courſe of years, will place them in their commercial relation to each other, in the ſtate of foreign countries.

" The third plan is, That the two kingdoms agree on certain moderate duties to be impoſed on the importation of goods, the growth and manufacture of the other, ſuch as will ſecure a due preference in the home market to the like articles of its own growth and manufacture, and yet leave to the ſiſter kingdom advantages, though not equal to its own, yet ſuperior to thoſe granted to any foreign country. The duties now payable on Britiſh goods imported into Ireland ſeem, by their moderation, as well adapted to anſwer this purpoſe, as any that could be deviſed; but to make this ſyſtem complete, there ſhould be added proper regulations with reſpect to bounties in future, and with reſpect to the duties on raw materials imported into each kingdom.

" It is in the judgment of the committee, a great recommendation of this plan, that if it ſhould now be carried into execution, and become the ſyſtem to which both countries ſhall be bound hereafter to conform, it will ſecure them in future from thoſe unpleaſant conteſts, to which, in purſuit of their reſpective intereſts, they may otherwiſe be expoſed; and your Majeſty, as ſovereign of the two kingdoms, will be relieved from the diſagreeable ſituation of having laws preſented to you by their reſpective Houſes of Parliament, for your royal aſſent, which, though beneficial to one of your kingdoms, may, in their operation, be highly detrimental to the intereſts of the other.

" The committee humbly take leave to refer your Majeſty to the information given by the merchants and manufacturers, for what relates to the particular branches of commerce in which they are reſpectively engaged, and to the obſervations made thereon. They think it right, however, in general to obſerve, that the duties intended to be impoſed, according to the propoſed plan, on the importation into Great Britain of goods, the growth and manufacture of Ireland, appear to them to be a ſufficient preference in the home market, which is the only object at preſent to be conſidered; for Ireland, as well as Great Britain, has already a right to ſupply its own market, and the markets of foreign countries, with any goods of its growth and manufacture, ſubject only to ſuch duties and reſtrictions as its own legiſlature ſhall think proper to impoſe.

" The duties impoſed by this plan on woollen goods imported from Ireland, will be lower than thoſe on any other article of Iriſh growth or manufacture, being about 6d. per yard on old drapery, and 2d. on new; which is, on an average, not more than five per cent.; and yet the merchants and manufacturers, in this branch of commerce, whom the committee have examined, appear by their evidence to have very little apprehenſion of a competition. The duties on the importation of all other goods of the growth and manufacture of Ireland into

A. D. 1785 this kingdom, will, according to the propoſed plan, be at leaſt ten per cent. and on ſome articles conſiderably more, which, with the charge of freight, inſurance, commiſſion, and port charges, will, in the judgment of the committee, be amply ſufficient to ſecure a due preference to the ſubjects of Great Britain in their own market; eſpecially if we add to what has been already mentioned, the ſkill of eſtabliſhed manufactures, and the advantages ariſing from long credit and great capitals: and it ought to be conſidered, that if the Iriſh ſhould be able to extend their trade in ſome branches of manufacture, which will probably at firſt be of inferior kinds, where labour rather than ſkill is required, the Britiſh trader in return will have his advantage in the ſuperior articles of manufacture, for which, by his ſkill and experience, he may be better qualified; which advantage the propoſed plan will ſecure to him againſt the non-importation agreements, or any new laws that might be otherwiſe made to his detriment. And as the people of Ireland increaſe in wealth, in conſequence of the extenſion thus given to their commerce, the ſubjects of Great Britain will neceſſarily derive advantages from it, by the larger ſale of thoſe commodities in which they particularly excel.

" The committee have alſo taken into conſideration the ſecond queſtion referred to them by your Majeſty, viz. what preferences are now given to the importation of any article, the growth, produce, or manufacture of Ireland, by any duty or prohibition on the importation, uſe, or ſale of the like articles from foreign parts; and how far it may be the intereſt of Great Britain in future to continue or to alter the ſame.

" For their information on this head, the committee called for two accounts, which have been preſented to them by the commiſſioners of your Majeſty's cuſtoms in England. The firſt account ſtates the preference given to the linen manufacturers of Ireland, on exportation from Great Britain, over that of foreign countries. On Iriſh linen, under 5d. a yard, from Great Britain to Africa, America, Spain, Portugal, Gibraltar, Minorca, or the Eaſt Indies, a bounty of one-halfpenny per yard is given; of the value of 5d. and under 6d. a bounty of one penny per yard; of the value of 6d. and under 1s. 6d. a bounty of three halfpence per yard. The ſecond account ſtates the articles of Iriſh produce, that are favoured in the duties on importation into Great Britain: the articles are proviſions, cattle, ſkins, hides, cable and cordage, flax and hemp, ſail cloth and canvas, iron, pitch, tar and roſin, rape ſeed and cakes, wood and yarn. Almoſt all of theſe are imported free, or with only a ſmall duty; while from France, and other parts of Europe, ſome are prohibited, and many of them ſubjected to very high duties.

" On conſidering the ſeveral articles of Iriſh growth and manufacture, to which, according to the foregoing accounts, preferences are given, it does not appear to the committee that there is any reaſon for altering the ſame: according to the true principles of reciprocity, the Iriſh ought to grant the ſame bounty on Britiſh linen exported from Ireland, as is now paid on Iriſh linen exported from Great Britain. It would be very inconvenient, and even detrimental to the commerce of Great Britain, in its intercourſe with foreign nations, to ſay, that theſe preferences ſhould at no time and in no reſpect be altered; but the committee are of opinion, that ſome ſufficient preference ſhould always be given to the foregoing articles, being the growth or manufacture of Ireland, on their importation, uſe, or ſale in Great Britain."

In the mean time, the merchants and manufacturers who had been examined before the committee, joined by great numbers of others from every part of the nation, met together for the purpoſe of taking the Iriſh propoſitions into their conſideration. During the courſe of their proceedings it appeared, that the opinions of the former by no means coincided with the

A. D. 1785 inferences which had been drawn from their examination in the report laid before Parliament. This circumſtance muſt appear the more ſingular, as many of the perſons examined were preciſely the ſame individuals in both caſes. This difference, however, may in ſome degree be reconciled if we conſider, that in the firſt caſe the queſtions were prepared by the reporters, who muſt be repreſented, whatever impartiality or rectitude we may chuſe to aſcribe to them, as having a ſpecific ſyſtem to vindicate. In the other caſe, the witneſſes preſented themſelves at the bar of a mixed aſſembly: they were examined by perſons of various deſcriptions; ſome who conſidered themſelves as pledged for the propoſed ſyſtem, ſome who warmly intereſted themſelves in its overthrow and annihilation, and a few who, unwarped by any previous ſentiments, were deſirous to deduce their opinion from the reſult of the whole. Many of the perſons examined were men of acknowledged opulence, integrity, and commercial knowledge; among them were Mr. Wedgewood, of Staffordſhire; Meſſrs. Walker, Richardſon and Peele, of Mancheſter; Mr. Robertſon, of Glaſgow, and Mr. Gibbons, of Briſtol.

The number of petitions preſented againſt the Iriſh propoſitions, amounted in the whole to upwards of ſixty. They were ſent up to Parliament from almoſt every quarter of the kingdom, and there was ſcarcely a ſingle ſpecies of manufacture or merchandize, upon the ſubject of which the perſons peculiarly intereſted did not appear to have conceived a conſiderable degree of alarm.

During the months of March, April and May, the Houſe of Commons was occupied in receiving the petitions and hearing the evidence of manufacturers and merchants of every deſcription. This laborious and minute mode of inveſtigation being compleated, on the 12th of May the propoſitions were again brought forward by Mr. Pitt, with many amendments, variations and additions. To the original ſet of propoſitions, ten new ones were added, ſome of them only ſupplemental to, and explanatory of the former, while ſome of them contained much new and important matter. We ſhall, therefore, inſert them in their enlarged ſtate, and as they were finally returned to the Parliament of Ireland.

“ I. That it is highly important to the intereſts of both countries, that the commerce between Great Britain and Ireland ſhould be finally regulated on permanent and equitable principles, for the mutual benefit of both countries.

“ II. That a full participation of commercial advantages ſhould be permanently ſecured to Ireland, whenever a proviſion equally permanent and ſecure, ſhall be made by the Parliament of that kingdom, towards defraying, in proportion to its growing proſperity, the neceſſary expences, in time of peace, of protecting the trade and general intereſts of the empire.

“ III. That towards carrying into full effect ſo deſirable a ſettlement, it is fit and proper that all articles, not the growth or manufacture of Great Britain or Ireland, except thoſe of the growth, produce, or manufacture of any of the countries beyond the Cape of Good Hope, to the Streights of Magellan, ſhould be imported into each kingdom from the other reciprocally, under the ſame regulations, and at the ſame duties (if ſubject to duties) to which they would be liable, when imported directly from the country or place from whence the ſame may have been imported into Great Britain or Ireland reſpectively, as the caſe may be; and that all duties originally paid on importation into either country reſpectively, except on arrack and foreign brandy, and on rum, and all ſorts of ſtrong waters not imported from the Britiſh colonies in the Weſt Indies, ſhall be fully drawn back on exportation to the other. But, nevertheleſs, that the duties ſhall continue to be protected and guarded, as at preſent, by withholding the drawback,

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1785 drawback, until a certificate from the proper officers of the revenue in the kingdom to which the export may be made, ſhall be returned and compared with the entry outwards.

" IV. That it is highly important to the general intereſts of the Britiſh empire, that the laws for regulating trade and navigation ſhould be the ſame in Great Britain and Ireland; and, therefore, that it is eſſential towards carrying into effect the preſent ſettlement, that all laws which have been made, or ſhall be made in Great Britain, for ſecuring excluſive privileges to the ſhips and mariners of Great Britain, Ireland, and the Britiſh colonies and plantations, and for regulating and reſtraining the trade of the Britiſh colonies and plantations; ſuch laws impoſing the ſame reſtraints, and conferring the ſame benefits on the ſubjects of both kingdoms, ſhould be in force in Ireland, by laws to be paſſed by the Parliament of that kingdom for the ſame time, and in the ſame manner as in Great Britain.

" V. That it is further eſſential to this ſettlement, that all goods and commodities of the growth, produce, or manufacture of Britiſh or foreign colonies in America or the Weſt Indies, and the Britiſh or foreign ſettlements on the coaſt of Africa, imported into Ireland, ſhould, on importation, be ſubject to the ſame duties and regulations, as the like goods are, or from time to time ſhall be ſubject to, upon importation into Great Britain; or if prohibited from being imported into Great Britain, ſhall in like manner be prohibited from being imported into Ireland.

" VI. That in order to prevent illicit practices, injurious to the revenue and commerce of both kingdoms, it is expedient that all goods, whether of the growth, produce, or manufacture of Great Britain or Ireland, or of any foreign country, which ſhall be hereafter imported into Great Britain from Ireland, or into Ireland from Great Britain, ſhould be put, by laws to be paſſed in the Parliaments of the two kingdoms, under the ſame regulations with reſpect to bonds, cockets, and other inſtruments, to which the like goods are now ſubject in paſſing from one port of Great Britain to another.

" VII. That for the like purpoſe, it is alſo expedient that, when any goods, the growth, produce, or manufacture of the Britiſh Weſt India iſlands, or any other of the Britiſh colonies or Plantations, ſhall be ſhipped from Ireland for Great Britain, they ſhould be accompanied with ſuch original certificates of the revenue officers of the ſaid colonies, as ſhall be required by the law on importation into Great Britain; and that when the whole quantity, included in one certificate, ſhall not be ſhipped at any one time, the original certificate, properly indorſed as to quantity, ſhould be ſent with the firſt parcel; and to identify the remainder, if ſhipped at any future period, new certificates ſhould be granted by the principal officers of the ports in Ireland, extracted from a regiſter of the original document, ſpecifying the quantities before ſhipped from thence, by what veſſels and to what ports.

" VIII. That it is eſſential for carrying into effect the preſent ſettlement, that all goods exported from Ireland to the Britiſh colonies in the Weſt Indies, or in America, or to the Britiſh ſettlements on the coaſt of Africa, ſhould, from time to time, be made liable to ſuch duties and drawbacks, and put under ſuch regulations as may be neceſſary, in order that the ſame may not be exported with leſs incumbrance of duties or impoſition than the like goods ſhall be burthened with when exported from Great Britain.

" IX. That it is eſſential to the general commercial intereſts of the empire, that ſo long as the Parliament of this kingdom ſhall think it adviſeable that the commerce to the countries beyond the Cape of Good Hope ſhall be carried on ſolely by an excluſive company, having liberty to import into the port of London only, no goods of the growth, produce, or manufacture of any

any countries beyond the Cape of Good Hope ſhould be importable into Ireland from any foreign country, or from any ſettlement in the Eaſt Indies belonging to any ſuch foreign country; and that no goods of the growth, produce, or manufacture of the ſaid countries, ſhould be allowed to be imported into Ireland but through Great Britain; and it ſhall be lawful to export ſuch goods of the growth, produce, or manufacture of any of the countries beyond the Cape of Good Hope to the Streights of Magellan, from Great Britain to Ireland, with the ſame duties retained thereon as are now retained on their being exported to that kingdom; but that an account ſhall be kept of the duties retained, and the net drawback on the ſaid goods imported to Ireland; and the amount thereof ſhall be remitted by the receiver general of his Majeſty's cuſtoms in Great Britain to the proper officers of the revenue in Ireland, to be placed to the account of his Majeſty's revenue there, ſubject to the diſpoſal of the Parliament of that kingdom; and that whenever the commerce to the ſaid countries ſhall ceaſe to be carried on by an excluſive company, in the goods of the produce of countries beyond the Cape of Good Hope to the Streights of Magellan, the goods ſhould be importable into Ireland from countries from which they may be importable into Great Breat Britain and no other; and that no veſſel ſhould be cleared out from Ireland, for any part of the countries from the Cape of Good Hope to the Streights of Magellan, but ſuch as ſhall be freighted in Ireland by the ſaid excluſive company, and ſhall have ſailed from the port of London; and that the ſhips going from Great Britain to any of the ſaid countries beyond the Cape of Good Hope, ſhould not be reſtrained from touching at any of the ports in Ireland, and taking on board there any of the goods of the growth, produce, or manufacture of that kingdom.

" X. That no prohibition ſhould exiſt, in either country, againſt the importation, uſe, or ſale of any article, the growth, produce, or manufacture of the other, except ſuch as either kingdom may judge expedient, from time to time, upon corn, meal, malt, flour and biſcuits; and except ſuch qualified prohibitions at preſent contained in any act of the Britiſh or Iriſh Parliament, as do not abſolutely prevent the importation of goods or manufactures, or materials of manufactures, but only regulate the weight, the ſize, the packages, or other particular circumſtances; or preſcribe the build or country, and dimenſions of the ſhip importing the ſame; and alſo except on arms, ammunition, gunpowder, and other utenſils of war, importable only by virtue of his Majeſty's licence; and that the duty on the importation of every ſuch article, (if ſubject to duty in either country) ſhould be preciſely the ſame in one country as in the other, except where an addition may be neceſſary in either country, in conſequence of an internal duty on any ſuch article of its own conſumption, or in conſequence of internal bounties in the country where ſuch article is grown, produced, or manufactured, and except ſuch duties as either kingdom may judge expedient, from time to time, upon corn, meal, flour, malt and biſcuits.

" XI. That in all caſes, where the duties on articles of the growth, produce, or manufacture of either country, are different on the importation into the other, it is expedient that they ſhould be reduced, in the kingdom where they are the higheſt, to an amount not exceeding the amount payable in the other; ſo that the ſame ſhall not be leſs than ten and an half per cent. where any article was charged with a duty on importation into Ireland of ten and an half per cent. or upwards, previous to the 17th day of May, 1782; and that all ſuch articles ſhould be exportable, from the kingdom into which they ſhall be imported, as free from duty as the ſimilar commodities or home manufactures of the ſame kingdom.

" XII. That it is alſo proper, that in all caſes where the articles of the conſumption of either kingdom ſhall be charged with an internal duty on the manufacture, the ſaid manufacture,

A. D. 1785 ture, when imported from the other, may be charged with a further duty on importation, adequate to countervail the internal duty on the manufacture, as far as relates to the duties now charged thereon; ſuch further duty to continue ſo long only as the internal conſumption ſhall be charged with the duty or duties to balance which it ſhall be impoſed; and that, where there is a duty on the importation of the raw material of any manufacture in one kingdom greater than the like duty on raw materials in the other, ſuch manufacture may, on its importation into the other kingdom, be charged with ſuch a countervailing duty, as may be ſufficient to ſubject the ſame, ſo imported, to burdens adequate to thoſe which the manufacture compoſed of the like raw material is ſubject to, in conſequence of duties on the importation of ſuch material in the kingdom into which ſuch manufacture is ſo imported; and the ſaid manufacture ſo imported, ſhall be entitled to ſuch drawbacks or bounties on exportation, as may leave the ſame ſubject to no heavier burden than the home-made manufacture.

" XIII. That, in order to give permanency to the ſettlement now intended to be eſtabliſhed, it is neceſſary that no new or additional duties ſhould be hereafter impoſed, in either kingdom, on the importation of any article of the growth, produce or manufacture of the other; except ſuch additional duties as may be requiſite to balance the duties on internal conſumption, purſuant to the foregoing reſolution, or in conſequence of bounties remaining on ſuch articles when exported from the other kingdom.

" XIV. That for the ſame purpoſe it is neceſſary further, that no prohibition, or new or additional duties, ſhall be hereafter impoſed in either kingdom, on the exportation of any article of native growth, produce, or manufacture, from one kingdom to the other, except ſuch as either kingdom may deem expedient from time to time, upon corn, meal, malt, flour and biſcuits.

" XV. That for the ſame purpoſe, it is neceſſary that no bounties whatever ſhould be paid or payable in either kingdom, on the exportation of any article to the other, except ſuch as relate to corn, meal, malt, flour and biſcuits, and except alſo the bounties at preſent given by Great Britain on beer and ſpirits diſtilled from corn, and ſuch as are in the nature of drawbacks or compenſations for duties paid; and that no bounty ſhould be payable on the exportation of any article to any Britiſh colonies or plantations, or to the Britiſh ſettlements on the coaſt of Africa, or on the exportation of any article imported from the Britiſh plantations, or from the Britiſh ſettlements on the coaſt of Africa, or Britiſh ſettlements in the Eaſt Indies, or any manufacture made of ſuch article, unleſs in caſes where a ſimilar bounty is payable in Great Britain, on exportation from thence, or where ſuch bounty is merely in the nature of a drawback or compenſation of or for duties paid, over and above any duties paid thereon in Great Britain; and where any internal bounty ſhall be given in either kingdom, on any goods manufactured therein, and ſhall remain on ſuch goods when exported, a countervailing duty, adequate thereto, may be laid upon the importation of the ſaid goods into the other kingdom.

" XVI. That it is expedient for the general benefit of the Britiſh empire, that the importation of articles from foreign countries ſhould be regulated from time to time in each kingdom, on ſuch terms as may effectually favour the importation of ſimilar articles of the growth, produce, or manufacture of the other, except in the caſes of materials of manufactures, which are, or hereafter may be allowed to be imported from foreign countries, duty free; and that in all caſes where any articles are or may be ſubject to higher duties on importation into this kingdom, from the countries belonging to any of the States of North America, than the like goods are or may be ſubject to when imported as the growth, produce, or manufacture of the Britiſh

1785 colonies and plantations, or as the produce of fiſheries carried on by Britiſh ſubjects, ſuch articles ſhall be ſubject to the ſame duties on importation into Ireland, from the countries belonging to any of the States of North America, as the ſame are or may be ſubject to on importation from the ſaid countries into this kingdom.

" XVII. That it is expedient that meaſures ſhould be taken to prevent diſputes touching the exerciſe of the right of the inhabitants of each kingdom to fiſh on the coaſt of any part of the Britiſh dominions.

" XVIII. That it is expedient that ſuch privileges of printing and vending books as are or may be legally poſſeſſed within Great Britain, under the grant of the crown or otherwiſe, and the copy-rights of the authors and bookſellers of Great Britain, ſhould continue to be protected in the manner they are at preſent by the laws of Great Britain; and that it is juſt that meaſures ſhould be taken by the Parliament of Ireland, for giving the like protection to the copy-right of the authors and bookſellers of that kingdom.

" XIX. That it is expedient that regulations ſhould be adopted with reſpect to patents, to be hereafter granted, for the encouragement of new inventions, ſo that the rights, privileges and reſtrictions thereon granted and contained, ſhall be of equal duration and force throughout Great Britain and Ireland.

" XX. That the appropriation of whatever ſum the groſs hereditary revenue of the kingdom of Ireland (the due collection thereof being ſecured by permanent proviſions) ſhall produce, after deducting all drawbacks, re-payments, or bounties granted in the nature of drawbacks, over and above the ſum of 656,000l. in each year, towards the ſupport of the naval force of the empire, to be applied in ſuch manner as the Parliament of Ireland ſhall direct, by an act to be paſſed for that purpoſe, will be a ſatisfactory proviſion, proportioned to the growing proſperity of that kingdom, towards defraying, in time of peace, the neceſſary expences of protecting the trade and general intereſts of the empire.

The chief object of the additional propoſitions, was to provide, firſt, That whatever navigation laws the Britiſh Parliament ſhould hereafter find it neceſſary to enact for the preſervation of the marine, the ſame ſhould be paſſed by the legiſlature of Ireland. Secondly, Againſt the importing into Ireland, and from thence into Great Britain, of any other Weſt India merchandizes than ſuch as were the produce of our own colonies; and thirdly, That Ireland ſhould debar itſelf from trading to any of the countries beyond the Cape of Good Hope to the Streights of Magellan, ſo long as it ſhould be thought neceſſary to continue the charter of the Eaſt India Company.

In the courſe of the debates upon the propoſitions as they ſtood with theſe amendments and additions, that which met with the moſt vigorous oppoſition, independent of ſuch general reaſoning as went againſt the ſyſtem altogether, was the fourth in which Great Britain, it was aſſerted, aſſumed both a preſent and future power to bind Ireland by ſuch acts as ſhe ſhould paſs relative to the trade and commerce of both kingdoms. This was ſtated to be in direct oppoſition to what had been ſolemnly ſtipulated betwixt the two kingdoms; namely, that Ireland was in future only to be bound by her own ſtatutes,—that it was a reſumption of the right of legiſlating for Ireland, which this country had renounced,—that it was bartering the liberties of Ireland for the advantages held out to that kingdom by the ſyſtem now propoſed, and thereby purchaſing Iriſh ſlavery at the expence of Engliſh commerce.

With reſpect to the laſt propoſition, which ſtipulated, that whenever there ſhould be a ſurplus of the revenue of Ireland, over and above the ſum of 656,000l. ſuch ſurplus ſhould be applied

A. D. 1785 applied to the ſupport of the Britiſh navy, it was urged, that if this was held forth as a compenſation for advantages voluntarily reſigned by Great Britain, nothing could be more fallacious, the preſent net revenue of that kingdom being little more than 333,000l. and therefore little more than half the ſtipulated ſum, over and above which the ſurplus only was to be applied in aid of the public revenue of this country.

The arguments which were offered generally and againſt the whole of the propoſed ſyſtem, went chiefly upon the ſuppoſed injury which the manufactures and commerce of Great Britain would ſuſtain from it; the former, from the comparative ſmall price of labour in Ireland, which alone, it was contended, would ſoon enable that kingdom to underſell us both at home and abroad; the latter, from the facility with which it was well known the revenue laws in Ireland were evaded.

The impoſſibility of preventing the clandeſtine importation of a variety of the moſt important articles, was ſtrongly inſiſted on; and it was added, that the competition which would ariſe between the two kingdoms, which ſhould ſell cheapeſt, would, of courſe, encreaſe the evil: finally, it was argued, that ſuch was the nature of the propoſitions, that in whatever proportion one country might benefit from them, in the very ſame degree the other would become a loſer.

In favour of the ſyſtem it was argued, that it was a meaſure of abſolute neceſſity, in order to put an end to the diſcontents which prevailed to ſo alarming a degree in the ſiſter kingdom.—That if the preſent propoſitions were not paſſed into a law, all that had already been done in favour of Ireland would prove nugatory, as it was clearly inadequate to the expectations of that country.

That with reſpect to the fourth propoſition, it was a condition which the ſafety of our own navigation laws made it neceſſary to annex to the boon granted to Ireland. That it was illiberal to infer from hence, that the Britiſh legiſlature had any views of trenching on the independence of Ireland, ſince it left to that kingdom the option of taking or refuſing the advantages held out to her ſubject to ſuch a condition. That the condition itſelf was ſuch as had frequently been adopted in the negotiations of independent ſtates, as in the late treaty between this kingdom and France, when the latter bound herſelf to publiſh certain edicts, as ſoon as other edicts ſtipulated on our part, were publiſhed by this country.

With reſpect to the diſadvantages which it had been ſuppoſed our manufacturers would have to encounter from the comparative ſmall price of labour in Ireland, it was ſaid, that ſuch a miſapprehenſion aroſe from a miſconception of the real fact. That the wages of artizans and manufacturers, although not of common labourers, were higher there than in this country, and therefore there was little likelihood of their being able to underſel us on that ground: nor could our commerce be in any danger from the reaſons which had been alleged, ſince the proviſions and reſtrictions, contained in the propoſitions, were ſufficient as well to prevent any clandeſtine importation of foreign goods into Ireland, as to inſure the duties payable on all ſuch as might be legally imported.

It was alſo urged, that when the principle of the compenſation on the part of Ireland was objected to, it ſhould be remembered that, in all the former proceedings on making conceſſions to Ireland, it was the univerſal ground of objection, that Ireland did not bear any proportion of the expences incurred in the expenditure for the general protection of the empire; but, at preſent, Ireland was willing to prove, that ſhe did not demand a participation of our commercial advantages, without contributing, in an adequate proportion, to the expences incurred

curred in the defence of them. It was not very reaſonable to expect that Ireland ſhould, in former times, have appropriated any particular part of her revenue for naval purpoſes. One great ſource of wealth was denied to the inhabitants of that country, in the colonial trade, which was conſidered as a *peculium* of the Britiſh commerce. The contrary, however, was now the caſe; and while a certain ſpecific appropriation ſhould be made for public purpoſes, there was no excluſion of the exerciſe of generoſity and liberality in the Iriſh Parliament, whenever the unforeſeen events or the natural contingencies of a war might call for it. As to the hereditary revenue, it was inſiſted that its increaſe had borne, and might be expected to continue to bear, an exact proportion to the increaſing wealth and opulence of the country.—As to the grant of the ſurplus above 656,000l. it is certainly a diminution of the royal power and property, and has been liberally conceded to ſtrengthen the whole empire by a great commercial adjuſtment between theſe two kingdoms. In ſhort, it was inſiſted by the friends to the propoſitions, that, on a fair and attentive examination of their principles, they would appear to be, firſt, to encourage and extend, as much as poſſible, the trade between the two kingdoms, on permanent and equitable principles; ſecondly, that the inhabitants of each ſhould trade to and from the Britiſh colonies, ſettlements, and dominions, in every part of the globe, now or hereafter to be planted or acquired, on equal terms, both by direct and circuitous voyages.

The propoſitions, after having been agitated upwards of three months, and after having received a variety of amendments and alterations, finally paſſed the Houſe of Commons by a large majority; and, on the 30th of May, were carried up to the Houſe of Lords. They here again encountered a very ſpirited oppoſition, and received ſome amendments, though by no means of a material nature.

The propoſitions having thus paſſed both Houſes, a bill founded on them was brought into the Houſe of Commons by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, which was read the firſt time before the end of the ſeſſion, and was followed by an addreſs to his Majeſty by both Houſes of Parliament, wherein they acquainted him with what they had done in this buſineſs; adding, at the ſame time, that it remained for the Parliament of Ireland to judge of the conditions according to their wiſdom and diſcretion, as well as of every other part of the ſettlement propoſed to be eſtabliſhed by mutual conſent.

On the 12th of Auguſt, the Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland moved the Houſe of Commons of that kingdom to bring in a bill correſpondent to that moved by the Engliſh miniſter. The debates on this occaſion were long and animated. Whatever had the leaſt appearance of infringing on the legiſlative independence of Ireland, was oppoſed in terms of the higheſt diſapprobation. The perpetual diſpoſition of her hereditary revenue by the laſt propoſition,—the ſurrender of her commercial legiſlation by the fourth,—and the reſtraint impoſed on her from trading beyond the Cape of Good Hope and the Straits of Magellan by the ninth, were put in every point of view in which argument and eloquence could place them.

In favour of the bill it was argued, that the fourth propoſition, which had excited ſo much jealouſy and alarm, could not, on any fair conſtruction, be ſaid to take from Ireland her right of commercial legiſlation, any more than the acts paſſed in the years 1779 and 1782 had done before; wherein Ireland had ſtipulated to trade with the Britiſh colonies and ſettlements in ſuch manner as Great Britain herſelf traded, to adopt the ſame reſtrictions and regulations. That, in the bill before them, it was propoſed to trade with Great Britain on the ſame principle; the liberty of either complying with the conditions, or renouncing the agreement *in toto*, whenever

1785 the conditions ſhould be obnoxious and diſſatisfactory, would be left, by the preſent bill, full as much in the power of the Iriſh Parliament as it was by either of the foregoing acts. The only difference was, that, by the former acts, Ireland had ſubſcribed to the commercial laws which had been adopted by Great Britain for 290 years back; by the preſent, to ſuch as that country ſhould bind itſelf to in future; but that it would be ſtill in the power of the Iriſh Parliament to renounce theſe laws, and the whole agreement together, whenever it thought proper. On the other hand, the commercial advantages offered to Ireland by the bill, were ſtated to be very important; the linen trade was thereby ſecured to her for ever; the colony trade, through Ireland to Great Britain, was given her; the Britiſh markets were thrown open to Iriſh manufactures: and again, as theſe manufactures were allowed to be re-exported from Great Britain, with a drawback of all duties, the Iriſh would, in effect, export on the foundation of Britiſh capital, at the ſame time that they were left to employ their own capital in the extenſion of their home manufactures.

The Houſe at length divided upon the queſtion; when there appeared for leave to bring in the bill, 127 againſt 108. So ſmall a majority in favour of ſuch an important meaſure, was conſidered in the light of a defeat; for although Mr. Orde afterwards moved to have the bill read a ſecond time, and to be printed, he obſerved, that having done this, he did not intend to make any further progreſs in the buſineſs during the preſent ſeſſion. He had reſolved to wait till the people had leiſure to examine and underſtand it; and though he was induced to ſuppoſe that a conſiderable time would be neceſſary for that purpoſe, he entertained no doubt, but that the more it was underſtood, the more it would be found for the benefit and advantage of the country, and the leſs reaſon would be diſcovered to impute any thing to it hoſtile to the conſtitution; nor would he again bring it forward at all, until the nation in general ſhould grow into a better liking of the meaſure.

Thus terminated the intended commercial arrangement between Great Britain and Ireland, after having, for ſeven months, employed the attention of both kingdoms.

We have mentioned, under the preceding years, the plan formed for the ſettlement of a conſiderable number of Geneveſe, who had communicated their deſire to eſtabliſh themſelves in Ireland. The commiſſioners who were ſent to Dublin on this occaſion, received the greateſt perſonal attention from all ranks of people. Their requeſt with reſpect to the admiſſion of their countrymen into Ireland, was complied with; and a particular tract of land, in the county of Waterford, was ſet apart for the new ſettlers.

But notwithſtanding theſe preparations, the whole ſcheme, in the end, proved abortive.—The terms inſiſted upon by the Geneveſe, previous to their becoming ſubjects of a new ſtate, were, firſt, that they ſhould be repreſented in Parliament; ſecondly, that they ſhould be formed into a diſtinct corporation; and, thirdly, that they ſhould be governed by their own laws. The firſt of theſe conditions might have been a matter of opinion, and ſubject to diſcuſſion; but the two laſt were held to be incompatible with the laws and the conſtitution of Ireland; and, as ſuch, were totally rejected.

This diſagreement on theſe leading points, put an end to all further procedure in the buſineſs. Some of the Geneveſe, however, tranſported themſelves into Ireland; but they ſoon found, by experience, that nothing was gained by changing their ſituation; and moſt of them, after a ſhort ſtay, quitted the kingdom.

The reciprocal advantages which might have accrued to Ireland and the Geneveſe emigrants from the propoſed ſettlement, even had it taken place in the fulleſt extent, could never, it is preſumed,

A. D. 1785 preſumed, have equalled, or been in any degree proportionable to the ſanguine expectations ſome men had been led to form on the ſubject. The Geneveſe being chiefly mechanics, muſt have been ill ſuited, from their former habits of life, to the labour of agriculture; and they were to be ſettled in a part of Ireland where their ſubſiſtence would have depended much more upon thoſe labours, than all the mechanical ingenuity which they poſſeſſed.

Early in the preceding year, there had been a great ſcarcity of proviſions at Newfoundland; and at the period when the neceſſities of the ſettlers were moſt urgent, ſeveral veſſels arrived there from America laden with proviſions. On this occaſion, Admiral Campbell, the governor of Newfoundland, was much at a loſs how to act: his own opinion was, that the proviſions might be legally imported.—He, however ſummoned a council, and took the beſt advice he could upon the ſpot. The council were unanimouſly of opinion with the governor; and, under that ſanction, the proviſions were permitted to be landed. An account of theſe proceedings was tranſmitted home by Admiral Campbell, with a requiſition of the advice and authority of government how to act for the future in ſimilar caſes; as it was neceſſary to aſcertain how far any ſubject of commerce might be legally imported, though in Britiſh bottoms, from an independent ſtate, to any of the colonies of England. To ſettle this point, a bill for confining, for a limited time, the trade between the ports of the United States of America and his Majeſty's ſubjects in the iſland of Newfoundland, to bread, flour, and live-ſtock, to be imported in none but Britiſh-built ſhips, actually belonging to Britiſh ſubjects, &c. was brought into Parliament, as there was a doubt whether the intercourſe bill with the United States extended to this object.

A difficulty, however, was ſtarted upon this ſubject, and urged with equal warmth and perſeverance. It was obſerved that this bill was in direct oppoſition to the navigation laws of this country, the leading principle of which was, that foreign produce could not be imported into the Britiſh colonies without being previouſly landed in this kingdom. It was alſo obſerved, that Canada and Nova Scotia, as well as the traders of this country, were competent to ſupply the iſland of Newfoundland with every thing that could be obtained from the States of America; and that the bill in queſtion was founded in a partial indulgence to the merchants of Poole and Dartmouth. It was, at the ſame time, propoſed to call in evidence to prove the truth of the latter opinions.

On the other hand, it was inſiſted, that the intercourſe in Britiſh ſhips between the ports of Newfoundland and thoſe of the United States, had, for the laſt two years, been actually eſtabliſhed; that though, in a few years, the exports from Nova Scotia and Canada might be ſufficient to ſupply Newfoundland, they were not then in a condition to anſwer the urgent demands of the preſent moment; and that if England could furniſh grain at a rate ſufficiently cheap for the purpoſe, there could be no doubt but the Engliſh merchant would have the preference. The hearing of evidence was objected to from the urgency of the caſe; and the bill finally received the ſanction of the legiſlature.

In conſequence of the debts of the Nabob of Arcot, their ſuſpicious appearance, and miſchievous influence on the government of the Carnatic, the examination into their nature and circumſtances was referred, by the regulating India bill of the laſt ſeſſion, to the court of directors, as far as the materials they were in poſſeſſion of ſhould enable them to do; and that they ſhould give ſuch orders to their preſidencies and ſervants abroad, for completing the inveſtigation thereof, as the nature of the queſtion ſhall require; and for eſtabliſhing, in concert with the Nabob of Arcot, ſuch funds for the diſcharge of thoſe debts which ſhall appear to be juſtly

4 F 2 due,

A. D. 1785 due, according to their reſpective rights of priority, as ſhall be conſiſtent with the rights of the India Company, the ſecurity of the creditors, and the honour and dignity of the Nabob.

The court of directors, in execution of the truſt repoſed in them, prepared orders to be ſent to their council at Madras, in which, after ſtating the ſuſpicious circumſtances under which many of the debts appeared to them to have been contracted, they directed them, in obedience to the poſitive injunctions of the act, to proceed to a more complete inveſtigation of the nature and origin thereof. Theſe orders being communicated to the board of controul, were rejected by them, and a new letter drawn up, in which the claims of the creditors were all, with ſome little limitations, eſtabliſhed, and a fund for their diſcharge aſſigned out of the revenues of the Carnatic, and the priority of payment ſettled amongſt the ſeveral claſſes of creditors. At a meeting of ſuch of the Nabob's creditors as were in England, theſe orders were publicly read; and on the ground of ſuch a proceeding, a motion was made in the Houſe of Lords for copies or extracts of all letters or orders iſſued by the court of directors, in purſuance of the injunctions contained in the 37th and 38th clauſes of the regulating act of the laſt ſeſſion.

In ſupport of the motion, the dangerous conſequences of ſuffering the board of controul to ſuperſede the authority of a poſitive act of Parliament, and the ſuſpicious circumſtance of its clandeſtine interference in an enormous money tranſaction, the management of which had been expreſsly delegated to other perſons by an act of the legiſlature, were ſtrongly inſiſted on. On the other hand, it was aſſerted, that the conduct of the board had been within the ſtrict letter of the ſtatute, inſomuch as they were enabled by a clauſe in the act, to originate orders, in caſes of urgent neceſſity, and to direct their being tranſmitted to India; nor had theſe orders been given till after a careful and ſufficient examination into the ſubject. The motion was rejected without a diviſion: a ſimilar motion was made in the Houſe of Commons, and ſhared a ſimilar fate.

On the 10th of June, petitions were preſented to the Commons from the merchants of London, Briſtol, and Glaſgow, trading in tobacco. The object of the petitions was to obtain a conſolidation of the various imports into one ſpecific charge, as well as ſome meaſure to be ſelected by the legiſlature for the reduction of the exiſting duties, or the ſuppreſſion of illicit trade. In ſupport of theſe petitions, the following information on the ſubject was authentically ſtated.

When the commerce of America was at its height, the imports from that country to Great Britain, if valued at their prime coſt, amounted to about 1,500,000l. per annum; of which ſum no leſs than 700,000l. conſiſted of tobacco; ſo that the trade in the article of tobacco comprized very near one-half of all the imports from America to Britain. This important trade, of which, at that period, Great Britain was excluſively poſſeſſed, but which has ſince been unfortunately interrupted, would, if the obſtacles ſtated in the petition could be removed, unqueſtionably return to its ancient and natural channel. This is evident, from many reaſons that might be produced, if the following ones were not ſufficient.

The market of France annually affords a ſale for 25,000 hogſheads of tobacco; yet, with all her induſtry, the utmoſt ſhe could obtain from America, in the preceding year, was 1,200 hogſheads.

Holland, including the market of Germany, which ſhe uſually ſupplies, affords a ſale for 18,000 hogſheads a year; yet, in the courſe of the laſt year, ſhe received from America no more than 5,000 hogſheads. Thus it appeared, that France and Holland together, imported directly from America no more than 6,200 hogſheads of tobacco laſt year, while Britain alone imported, in the ſame time, more than 30,000. Such is the ſuperiority of Engliſh manufactures,—ſuch the ſuperior credit of her merchants,—ſuch the predilection of the American planters for the country of their ancient correſpondence. But however ſtrongly the trade of America inclined to its former courſe, it never could make a durable return, unleſs the obſtacles that gave riſe to theſe petitions were removed. To effect this ſalutary purpoſe, a bill was brought in by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, for the better ſecuring the duties payable upon tobacco; and alſo, on introducing it, declared, that the revenue at preſent ariſing from that article, ſcarce exceeds one-half of what the net duty would be, if it were paid on the whole quantity conſumed in the kingdom.

On the 4th of July, Mr. Beaufoy, who had ſome days before preſented a report to the Houſe from the committee appointed to enquire into the ſtate of the Britiſh fiſheries, and into the moſt effectual means of their extenſion and improvement, made a motion to take the particulars of the ſaid report into conſideration. In ſupport of certain reſolutions which he afterwards moved, and which principally related to the herring fiſhery, he obſerved, that this fiſhery had been engroſſed from us by the Dutch; and that the bounties, amounting to little leſs than 20,000l. a year, had been an uſeleſs expence. This was attributed by the committee to the circumſtance of the Engliſh veſſels not being permitted to ſail till the 1ſt of October, though the fiſhery, in reality, commenced as early as the 1ſt of June. The veſſels were alſo obliged by law to make a circuitous voyage, while the Dutch made a direct one. Various other evils were ſtated, and propoſed to be redreſſed; and it was particularly urged to the Houſe, from our ſucceſs in the Newfoundland and Greenland fiſheries, that the ſuperiority of the Dutch in the fiſhery in queſtion, was not owing to any inherent or unalienable advantage. It was only in the fiſhery for herrings, a fiſhery upon her own coaſts, and which ſhe alone could continue through the winter, and thus unite the advantage of both ſeaſons, that the exertions of Britain had failed of ſucceſs, and wherein Holland had preſerved the aſcendency.

The reſolutions were as follow:—

“ That every buſs or fiſhing veſſel, properly fitted out, and furniſhed as by law required for veſſels entered for the bounty, ſhall be allowed to clear out of any port of Great Britain at any time between the 1ſt of June and the 1ſt of October, and to proceed immediately to her fiſhing ſtation, and to caſt her nets, without being obliged to rendezvous at any other port or place.

“ That the maſters of buſſes or other veſſels employed in the herring fiſhery, ſhall be at liberty to purchaſe freſh herrings of the boat fiſhers, (being Britiſh ſubjects) and to ſhip the herrings which they ſhall take, or which they ſhall purchaſe as aforeſaid, on board any attendant Britiſh veſſel, with permiſſion to land the ſame, under proper regulations, in any of the ports of Great Britain, upon oath being made by the maſter of the ſmaller veſſel ſo landing them as aforeſaid, or by the owner of the fiſh, that the fiſh were, to the beſt of his knowledge and belief, caught by Britiſh ſubjects; provided that, if the attendant veſſel which ſhall ſail with ſuch fiſh, ſhall land them at any other port than that from which the principal veſſel cleared out, a proper certificate of the number of barrels of ſalted fiſh ſo landed, ſhall be obtained from the principal officer of cuſtoms at ſuch port, before the bond for the duties on the ſalt taken on board the principal veſſel ſhall be diſcharged: and, provided alſo, that no buſs or veſſel returning to port within the ſpace of three months after her clearance outwards, unleſs

leſs with a full cargo, the whole of which ſhall have been taken, and cured or ſalted by ſuch buſs or veſſel, ſhall be entitled to a bounty.

"That for reviving and encouraging the cod fiſhery in the North ſeas and in Iceland, the owner of any veſſel employed therein, ſhall be at liberty to uſe, in the ſaid fiſhery, Britiſh made ſalt, duty free; and to warehouſe, under the key of the officer, any ſurplus ſalt remaining in ſuch veſſel, upon her return to the place of her out-fit, under the like rules and regulations as are provided for ſurplus ſalt brought back in veſſels employed in the herring fiſhery.

"That all buſſes, and other fiſhing veſſels, ſhall, in future, be permitted to be entered for the bounty, without any limitation of their burthen or tonnage; veſſels of leſs than 20 tons excepted: nor ſhall any buſs or veſſel be entitled to the bounty for more than 80 tons, although of a larger burthen.

"That all buſſes and veſſels employed in the herring fiſheries, ſhall be at liberty, during the time of their continuance at ſea, to catch and cure cod, ling, and hake, as well as herrings, and ſhall be ſubject to the ſame regulations, and ſhall have the ſame privilege of curing the ſaid other ſpecies of fiſh with ſalt duty free, as in the caſe of herrings; but that no bounty ſhall be allowed on the exportation of the ſaid other ſpecies of fiſh; and, therefore, that ſuch other ſhall be marked, by cutting their tails in the manner preſcribed for marking fiſh cured for home conſumption."

After ſome attempts to poſtpone the conſideration of this important ſubject to another period, the reſolutions were agreed to, and a bill ordered in upon them.

The number of ſhips employed from England in the whale fiſhery, to Davis's Straits and the Greenland ſeas, in the courſe of this year, amounted to 139,—carrying 47,000 tons, and navigated by 6,600 men and boys, beſides 15 ſhips from Scotland. The number of ſhips from Holland in the ſame fiſhery, and during the ſame period, amounted to 65.

His Daniſh Majeſty iſſued a proclamation in this year for encouraging foreigners, as well as natives, to embark in the whale and ſeal fiſheries from that kingdom to Greenland, Iceland, &c. by which a bounty of 15 rix-dollars per Daniſh commercial laſt (or about 30s. ſterling per ton, Britiſh meaſurement) was offered to perſons chuſing to embark in that trade from the ſaid kingdom; to be paid down in caſh before the ſhip is fitted out, on ſecurity being given that ſuch veſſel or veſſels ſhall be ready, and do ſail on that errand, (wind and weather permitting) at the time appointed in the royal proclamation.

Perſons engaging in this trade, to have free permiſſion to employ, for the ſervice of the fiſhery, foreign mechanics, harpooners, boat-ſteerers, &c. of what nation ſoever. Such foreigners, ſo long as they continue in this employ, to be free from all manner of taxes and burthens, and have leave to quit the kingdom, with all their effects, whenever they think proper. No exceptions are made to ſhips foreign built, whether oak or aſh. Every ſhip, however, was to bring its cargo direct to the Daniſh market, to be ſold there by private or public contract, except an expreſs order was given for its exportation.

It was further permitted all owners and maſters of ſhips ſailing to thoſe ſeas from the kingdom of Denmark, to trade with the Daniſh factories, or natives on the coaſts, iſland of Iceland, &c. and to import foreign manufactures duty free, intended as articles of barter in the Greenland trade.

The Canada ſales, in this year, amounted to 242,000l.

A. D. 1785 In conſequence of the act, paſſed by the Parliament of Great Britain, to regulate the commerce between the Britiſh Weſt India colonies, and the United States of America, the legiſlature of Maſſachuſett's in North America, paſſed an act on the 23d of June in this year, prohibiting the exportation, from any part or harbour of the commonwealth, of any goods, wares, or merchandize, the growth, manufacture, or produce of any of the United States, in Britiſh ſhips, on pain of forfeiting the veſſel, &c. This act contains alſo ſeveral ſubordinate clauſes of regulation, which are not ſufficiently material to ſtate at large.

On the 10th of July, the King's council of France iſſued a decree reſpecting the importation of certain foreign goods. This decree prohibits all white or raw callicoes, and alſo linens and callicoes, handkerchiefs, dimities and nankeens, fabricated either in the Indies or any where elſe abroad, that are not the product of their India Company's trade; and alſo all kinds of foreign gauzes, lawns, &c. with the exception of foreign blue linens, ſtriped, checked, dyed, painted, or ſtamped, for the Guinea trade. This was a general decree for the purpoſe of protecting the intereſts of the Eaſt India Company, and the manufactories of the kingdom: but a ſecond decree, which was publiſhed on the 17th of the ſame month, levelled its prohibitions principally at the manufactures and produce of Great Britain.

All kinds of ſadlery, hoſiery, woollen cloths, hardwares, all poliſhed ſteel wares, (except tools and inſtruments fit for arts and ſciences) and alſo all kinds of foreign cryſtal and glaſs, on pain of the ſaid goods being confiſcated, and of being fined ten thouſand livres. An exception is made for ſuch as follow no trade, and who import the goods, wares, &c. only for their own uſe and perſonal conſumption, on payment of 30 per cent. duty.

On the 8th of November in this year, a definitive treaty of peace took place between the Emperor of Germany and the States General, by which the navigation of the river Scheldt, the grand object of the late war between thoſe two powers, remains, with very little and immaterial variation, in its former ſtate.

On the ſame day a treaty of alliance was ſigned between his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty and the States General. By this treaty, the Chriſtian King and the States General promiſe to contribute all in their power to their reſpective ſecurity, and to preſerve themſelves in tranquillity, peace, and neutrality, as alſo the actual poſſeſſion of all their eſtates, domains, franchiſes and liberties, and to protect each other from any hoſtile attack in all parts of the world; and in order the more poſitively to fix the extent of the guarantee with which his Majeſty has charged himſelf, it is expreſsly ſtipulated, that it ſhall comprehend the treaty of Munſter of 1648, and of Aix-la-Chapelle of 1748, except the derogations which the ſaid treaties have undergone, or may undergo in future. The contracting parties engage to unite for the preſervation of peace, and in caſe either of them are threatened with an attack, the other ſhall uſe his good offices to prevent hoſtilities: but if the ſaid good offices ſhall prove ineffectual, his Chriſtian Majeſty and their High Mightineſſes engage from this time to aſſiſt each other both by ſea and land; for which purpoſe, his Chriſtian Majeſty ſhall furniſh the States General with 10,000 infantry, 2,000 cavalry, 12 ſail of the line and 6 frigates; and their High Mightineſſes, in caſe of a marine war, or in caſe his Majeſty ſhall meet with any hoſtilities by ſea, ſhall furniſh 6 ſhips of the line and 3 frigates; and in caſe of an attack upon the French territory, the States General ſhall furniſh their contingent of troops in money, at 10,000 Dutch florins per month for 1,000 infantry, and 30,000 florins per month for 1,000 cavalry: the eſtimate to be made on the footing of 5,000 infantry and 1,000 cavalry. When a marine war ſhall be declared, in

1785 which neither of the contracting powers have any part, they ſhall mutually guarantee to each other the liberty of the ſeas, &c.

On the ſigning the foregoing treaties, a memorial was preſented to the States by Sir James Harris, the Britiſh plenipotentiary at the Hague, which concludes in the following manner:

“ Yet if your High Mightineſſes are of opinion, that, on account of the civil diſſenſions, which, for ſome time, have unfortunately prevailed within the Republic, to his Majeſty's great concern, the preſent time is ill ſuited to the ſettling of the mutual intereſts of both nations, an object ever preſent to his Majeſty, it is hoped, at leaſt, that your High Mightineſſes, after ſuch aſſurances from the King, and all his Majeſty's friendly diſpoſitions towards the Republic, will think it ſuitable to your wonted wiſdom, not to be drawn in to accept of any engagements which might, at any time, betray you into a ſyſtem, contrary to that rectitude which hath ever guided his Majeſty, or, by making you ſwerve from the ſolid baſis of an independent neutrality, raiſe inſeparable obſtacles to the renewal of an alliance between the two powers, when time and circumſtances may preſent it to your High Mightineſſes as a matter of neceſſity and mutual conveniency, &c.”

On the ſecond day of December in this year, John Temple, Eſq. was received in the character of Conſul General of his Britannic Majeſty by the Congreſs of America.

The ſhip owners and others concerned in the coal trade, having, in the early part of this year, entered into a combination to enhance the price of coals, a common council was aſſembled, to whom the Lord Mayor ſtated this alarming circumſtance. It was in conſequence recommended to put the laws againſt unlawful combinations into execution; and application being made to the miniſtry, an advertiſement appeared in the Gazette, with a declaration of his Majeſty's pardon, and a reward of 200l. to any perſon concerned in ſuch combination, who ſhould diſcover the abettors or promoters of the ſame. At the ſame time the following notice was ſerved on the coal buyers, coal factors, &c. by Mr. Saxby, the Water Bailiff, viz.

“ The Lord Mayor being extremely anxious, that the inhabitants of the city and parts adjacent may receive their ordinary ſupply of coals, and that the perſons uſually employed in the coal trade may no longer be kept out of employment, has directed me to give immediate notice to the coal owners, factors, and all others concerned in the coal trade, that unleſs the ſhips now in the river begin to unload their cargoes without further delay, his lordſhip is prepared and determined to carry into immediate effect the reſolution of the Court of Common Council, and cauſe all perſons to be brought to that puniſhment, which the common and ſtatute laws of the realm have prepared for thoſe who enter into combinations to obſtruct the ſale of that neceſſary commodity, and enhance the price thereof.

(Signed,) “ WILLIAM SAXBY,

July 29, 1785. “ *Water Bailiff of the City of London.*”

An account of the number of gallons contained in the ſtills entered and uſed by diſtillers and rectifiers in the ſeveral collections in England and Wales, between the 10th of September, 1784, and the 5th of July, 1785, diſtinguiſhing rectifiers from diſtillers.

	Number of Gallons.	Number of Gallons.
Collections.	*Diſtillers.*	*Rectifiers.*
Briſtol, — — —	63,848	26,720
Cambridge, — —	———	182
Canterbury, — —	———	412
Cheſter, — — —	———	149

Cornwall,

Collections.	*Number of Gallons.* *Diſtillers.*	*Number of Gall.* *Rectifiers.*
Cornwall,	63,848	892
Derby,	—	192
Doncaſter,	—	379
Eſſex,	—	998
Exeter,	—	1,089
Glouceſter,	5,473	2,118
Hants,	—	2,161
Hertford,	11,326	—
Leeds,	—	3,167
Litchfield,	—	630
Liverpool,	—	1,596
Mancheſter,	—	1,165
Marlborough,	—	210
Northumberland,	3,347	—
Norwich,	—	828
Oxford,	—	475
Reading,	—	1,077
Rocheſter,	7,138	3,818
Saliſbury,	—	583
Salop,	—	198
Sheffield,	—	306
Suffolk,	—	436
Surry,	30,249	5,045
Uxbridge,	—	687
Wolverhampton,	—	1,071½
Worceſter,	5,587	—
York,	—	624
Total of the country,	126,968	57,208½
Total of London,	96,909	102,643½
Total of London and the country,	223,877	159,852

Grand total 383,729 gallons, which, at a halfpenny per gallon, amounted to 799l. 8s. 8½d.

An account of the amount of the revenue ariſing from the diſtillery in England, from the 1ſt of November, 1784, to the 5th of July, 1785.

Corn Distillery.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
In London and its environs,				279,788	19	7
— Briſtol,	14,566	5	0			
— Tewkſbury,	1,835	10	0			
— Worceſter,	7,430	10	0			
— Maidſtone,	6,287	19	1½			
— Berwick,	4,131	5	10	34,251	1	0½
Total amount of the revenue of the corn diſtillery,				314,040	0	7½

	£.	s.	d.
Brought over,	314,040	0	7½
MELASSES DISTILLERY.			
In London and its environs,	10,645	0	5¾
— Briſtol,	210	8	0¼
Total amount of the revenue ariſing from the diſtillery in England,	324,895	9	1½
Total amount of the revenue ariſing from the diſtillery in Scotland,	93,701	12	1¾
Amount of the equalizing duty paid in England,	8,000	0	0
Amount of duty actually paid,	426,597	1	3¼
The difference in the ſtock on hand, on the 1ſt of November, 1784, and the 1ſt of November, 1785, was 2,700 tons, at 30l. per ton; which difference muſt be conſidered as part of the conſumption of 1785,	51,000	0	0
Total,	477,597	1	3¼

An account of ſugar and rum imported into England from March 25, to October 19, in this year.

	Ships.	*Caſks of Sugar.*	*Caſks of Rum.*
Jamaica,	132	48,615	14,743
Antigua,	30	13,505	529
St. Kitt's,	30	14,220	628
Barbadoes,	18	7,275	133
Granades,	35	11,841	1,634
Montſerrat,	5	2,159	58
Nevis,	8	3,974	116
Dominica,	9	3,601	14
St. Vincent,	10	4,273	251
Tortola,	5	2,110	24
Tobago,	6	699	54
Total,	288	112,272	18,184

An authentic account of corn and grain exported from, and imported into England and Scotland this year.

EXPORTED.

1785. ENGLAND.	*Britiſh Qrs.*	*Foreign Qrs.*
Wheat,	65,213	6,312
Wheat Flour,	59,564	116
Rye,	12,492	397
Barley,	58,427	108
Malt,	91,042	—
Oats,	13,120	1,605
Oat-meal,	495	33
Beans,	6,323	240
Peas,	6,482	2,399

IMPORTED.

1785. ENGLAND.	*Quarters.*
Wheat,	85,796
Wheat Flour,	11,778
Rye,	28,738
Barley,	63,666
—	—
Oats,	281,018
Oat-meal,	4,431
Beans,	9,355
Peas,	6,736
Indian corn,	15

EXPORTED.

A. D.
1785

EXPORTED.

1785. SCOTLAND.	*Britiſh Qrs.*	*Foreign Qrs.*
Wheat,	569	——
Wheat Flour,	911	——
Bear,	4,770	——
Rye,	274	——
Barley,	12,192	——
Oats,	4,940	——
Oatmeal,	5,080	——
Peas and Beans,	460	——
Malt,	4,678	——

IMPORTED.

1785. SCOTLAND.	*Quarters.*
Wheat,	13,277
Wheat Flour,	12
——	——
Rye,	23
Barley,	3,546
Oats,	37,681
Oatmeal,	50,958
Peas and Beans,	722
——	——

The bounties on corn and grain exported from England in the courſe of this year, amounted to 22,465l. 17s. 0¼d.

The drawbacks, during the ſame period, were 207l. 1s. 6d.

The amount of the bounties paid on corn and grain exported from Scotland, during the ſame time, was 3,848l. 8s. 10d.

The duties on corn imported into England, was 6,249l. 15s. 6d.; and, in Scotland, they amounted to 1,119l. 1s. 8d.

The average prices of corn in England and Wales, by the ſtandard Wincheſter buſhel, for this year, was as follows:—

Wheat, 5s. 2¾d.; rye, 3s. 6d.; barley, 3s.; oats, 2s. 1¾d.; beans, 3s. 10d.

The following are the variations of the public funds during this year, with the higheſt and loweſt prices arranged oppoſite to each month.

	Bank Stock.	*3 per cent. reduc*	*3 per cent. conſol*	*4 per cent. conſol*	*New Ann. 1777*	*Long Ann.*	*Short Ann. 1778*	*India Stock.*	*India Ann.*	*India Bonds.*	*South Sea Stock*	*S Sea Old Ann.*	*3 per ct. B. 1751*	*New Nav Bills*	*5 per Cent. Nav*	*3 per cent. Scrip*	*Exchequer Bills.*
January,	116¼	57	56½	—	73½	17¼	12¼	——	52⅛	6 d.	—	54⅞	—	16¾	89⅛	57¾	3 s.
	——	55⅞	54¼	—	70⅞	16½	11⅞	——	—	1	—	54¼	—	14¼	88¼	56⅛	2
February,	117¼	57⅛	56¼	—	73½	17¼	12¼	132¼	63⅞	3	64	55⅝	—	14½	89	—	3
	——	56⅞	55⅜	—	73⅞	17	12	——	—	1	—	55⅝	—	13⅜	88½	—	2
March,	116	56½	55¾	—	73¼	17⅛	12	133	—	5	64	55⅞	—	16	88⅞	—	1 par.
	——	56⅜	54⅞	—	73⅜	16¾	11¾	131	—	2	—	55⅝	—	14¼	88	—	——
April,	119½	57½	57⅞	73½	—	17½	12½	131¼	—	3	—	—	—	16	92	—	3 s.
	——	55⅝	54⅞	71⅞	—	16¾	11¾	——	—	1	—	—	—	12	88	—	——
May,	117½	58¼	59¼	74½	—	18	12⅝	133¾	—	5	—	—	—	10	93	—	——
	——	56⅞	57⅜	73	—	17½	12¼	133½	—	1	—	—	—	7	91	—	——
June,	118¼	57½	58⅝	74⅛	—	17¾	12½	135¾	53½	5	—	56⅞	—	7¾	92	—	6s. diſ
	——	56⅞	57¼	73⅞	—	17⅝	12⅜	133½	53	1	—	56¾	—	7¼	91	—	3
July,	120¼	58⅛	58⅜	75⅛	—	17⅝	12½	136	53¾	6	—	66¼	—	7⅝	91⅞	—	6s. diſ
	——	57⅞	56¾	74	—	17⅜	12¼	132	—	1	—	56⅞	—	6⅜	89¼	—	3
Auguſt,	123	59¼	58⅜	76¾	—	18	13	135¼	—	19 p.	—	57½	—	5	92⅛	—	92 pre.
	——	58⅞	57½	75⅜	—	17⅛	12⅜	135	—	6	—	57⅛	—	4½	—	—	10
Septemb.	123½	59¼	59⅞	79	—	18½	13⅛	142½	55½	22	68¼	59⅜	—	4¾	96⅞	—	12
	——	59⅜	57⅞	76¾	—	18	12⅜	136½	—	17	57¾	57¾	—	3¾	25⅛	—	4
October,	129¾	65	66½	83⅞	—	20⅛	13½	147½	—	27	—	63⅛	—	4⅛	—	—	13
	——	62⅜	59⅝	80⅝	—	18¼	12¼	——	—	13	—	—	—	3	—	—	5
Novemb.	137½	69¾	70¾	88	—	23⅛	13⅞	151¼	—	42	—	64¼	—	2½	—	—	24
	——	64⅝	65⅛	82⅝	—	19⅜	13½	149½	—	32	—	—	—	2⅛	—	—	18
Decemb.	142	72	73½	90¼	—	21½	14⅛	156	66	45	—	67	68	2¼	—	—	12
	——	69	69¾	87⅛	—	20⅛	13⅞	——	—	37	—	—	61	2⅛	—	—	5

IMPORTS

IMPORTS and EXPORTS, from CHRISTMAS 1784, to CHRISTMAS 1785.

COUNTRIES.	IMPORTS.			EXPORTS.		
Africa,	48,535	12	—	587,196	10	2
Canaries,	4,457	15	11	17,034	19	2
Denmark and Norway,	117,172	7	8	322,395	15	4
Eaſt Country,	483,485	15	8	97,783	15	5
Eaſt Indies,	2,703,940	14	1	1,153,532	14	9
Flanders,	222,268	17	2	1,173,906	18	5
France,	117,366	9	2	358,244	16	11
Germany,	559,177	19	—	1,402,284	11	11
Holland,	468,121	6	11	1,506,303	12	7
Ireland,	2,012,288	15	10	2,168,614	4	9
Iſle of Man,	8,389	16	6	31,868	—	8
Italy,	687,155	12	—	513,171	6	10
Madeira,	2,880	—	2	44,978	11	8
Portugal,	428,064	19	11	798,204	19	—
Ruſſia,	1,606,688	7	1	233,998	11	1
Spain,	697,712	14	9	788,064	2	6
Gibraltar,	2,616	9	11	86,207	13	10
Streights,	—	—	—	306,028	3	9
Sweden,	203,765	15	7	65,307	5	5
Turkey,	146,906	1	3	82,449	10	4
Venice,	69,194	12	4	20,294	18	7
Greenland,	74,523	8	11	2,609	4	9
Iſland of Alderney,	22	15	—	4,517	6	11
Iſland of Guernſey,	32,829	19	8	60,581	1	8
Iſland of Jerſey,	15,649	1	11	29,150	14	11
Iſland of Sark,	81	9	5	54	—	—
Canada,	111,451	13	—	267,384	14	9
Cape Breton,	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carolina,	228,070	15	10	310,198	3	7
Florida,	18,096	3	3	4,633	—	10
Georgia,	45,919	14	7	44,396	4	6
Hudſon's Bay,	11,270	5	2	5,125	10	4
New England,	56,647	11	11	163,348	5	3
Newfoundland,	63,584	11	7	198,227	6	4
New York,	61,671	10	9	405,762	12	—
Nova Scotia,	7,084	9	10	207,345	9	8
Pennſylvania,	57,705	6	5	369,215	8	5
Iſland of St. John, Gulf of St. Laurence,	—	—	—	—	—	—
Virginia & Maryland,	443,580	6	2	1,015,102	8	3
Anguilla,	2,829	15	6	—	—	—
Antigua,	384,651	7	7	82,463	12	—
Bahamas,	14,150	8	1	33,235	5	4
Barbadoes,	249,959	4	8	151,654	—	10
Bermuda,	990	18	9	6,118	5	10
Dominica,	257,967	2	8	61,695	2	—
Grenada,	438,448	9	5	119,131	8	3
Honduras Bay,	29,153	16	5	1,647	15	6
Jamaica,	2,262,905	3	8	626,310	—	9
Montſerrat,	44,055	6	5	6,629	15	2
Muſquito Shore,	20,282	11	9	247	9	1
Nevis,	88,213	6	10	6,838	17	9
St. Croix,	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Euſtatius,	—	—	—	338	7	—
St. Kitt's,	318,618	10	8	67,753	4	6
St. Lucia,	18,572	19	3	—	—	—
St. Thomas's,	1,504	7	10	—	—	—
St. Vincent's,	157,144	5	1	54,432	18	3
Tobago,	40,773	16	5	313	3	8
Tortola,	85,876	1	7	18,406	8	—
Demerara,	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Domingo,	—	—	—	—	—	—
Surinam,	—	—	—	1	15	—
St. Martin's,	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cape Francois,	—	—	—	—	—	—
Havannah,	—	—	—	—	—	—
New Orleans,	727	10	—	1,583	—	3
Buenos Ayres,	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northern Fiſhery,	1,554	2	5	—	—	—
Southern Fiſhery,	8,483	12	11	2,403	9	10
Foreign coin and bullion,	—	—	—	652,560	13	6
Prize goods,	34,076	17	—	30,941	10	—
Total,	16,279,419	1	3	16,770,228	17	9

The

A. D. 1785 The following bills relative to trade and commerce received the royal aſſent in the courſe of this year:

A bill for confining, for a limited time, the trade between the ports of the United States of America, and his Majeſty's ſubjects in the iſland of Newfoundland, to bread, flour, and live ſtock, to be imported in none but Britiſh built ſhips, actually belonging to Britiſh ſubjects, and navigated according to law, clearing out from the ports of his Majeſty's European dominions, and furniſhed with a licence according to a form thereunto annexed.

Reſpecting the commercial intercourſe between Great Britain and America.

To repeal the duties impoſed laſt ſeſſion on cotton ſtuffs, &c.

Reſpecting the importation of goods from Tobago.

To appoint commiſſioners to enquire into the fees, gratuities, perquiſites, and emoluments which are, or have lately been, received in the ſeveral public offices therein-mentioned; to examine into any abuſes which may exiſt in the ſame, and to report ſuch obſervations as ſhall occur to them for the better conducting and managing the buſineſs tranſacted in the ſaid offices.

To repeal ſo much of an act of the laſt ſeſſion, as relates to the diſtillation, &c. of corn ſpirits in the Highlands of Scotland.

For funding the navy bills and ordnance debentures.

For preventing frauds in the wool manufactory in certain counties.

For transferring certain duties from the commiſſioners of exciſe and ſtamps to the commiſſioners of the taxes.

For the better ſecuring the duties on coal, culm and cinders.

For better examining and auditing the public accounts.

For regulating inſurances on ſhips, goods, &c.

For regulating the impriſonment of debtors under proſecution in the courts of conſcience in London and the bills of mortality, and to aboliſh the fees paid by them to gaolers, &c.

Reſpecting the manufacture and importation of cordage for ſhipping.

Reſpecting the duties upon, and the importation of, Florence wine and oil; alſo reſpecting the exportation of wheat, &c. to our ſugar colonies,—the drawback on the exportation of ſnuff,—the permiſſion to land Britiſh plantation rum or ſpirits before payment of the exciſe duties,—the premiums upon the importation of pitch, &c. from Eaſt Florida,—the bounty upon the exportation of ſilk gauzes,—and the drawback upon the exportation of raw ſilk.

Reſpecting the duties impoſed laſt ſeſſion upon printed linens, &c. and for laying duties on printed cotton ſtuffs, muſlins, fuſtians, velvets, and velverets.

For further poſtponing the payment of two millions to the Bank.

Reſpecting the laws relative to ſalt, rock ſalt, foul ſalt for manure, Glauber or Epſom ſalts, &c.

Reſpecting party walls, and for the more effectually preventing miſchiefs by fire, and for extending the proviſions of this act, ſo far as relates to manufactories of pitch, &c. throughout England.

For encouraging the pilchard fiſhery.

To authorize certain great officers of ſtate to pay bounties granted by his Majeſty to perſons in low and indigent circumſtances.

For the further encouragement of the Britiſh fiſheries.

A. D.
1785

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Eaſt Country,	483,485	15	8	97,783	15	5
Eaſt Indies,	2,703,940	14	1	1,153,532	14	9
Flanders,	222,368	17	2	1,173,906	18	5
France,	117,366	9	2	358,244	16	11
Germany,	559,177	19	—	1,402,284	11	11
Holland,	468,121	6	11	1,506,303	12	7
Ireland,	2,012,288	15	10	2,168,614	4	9
Iſle of Man,	8,389	16	6	31,868	—	8
Italy,	687,155	12	—	513,171	6	10
Madeira,	2,880	—	2	44,978	11	8
Portugal,	428,064	19	11	798,204	19	—
Ruſſia,	1,606,688	7	1	233,998	11	1
Spain,	697,712	14	9	788,064	2	6
Gibraltar,	2,616	9	11	86,207	13	10
Streights,	—	—	—	306,028	3	9
Sweden,	203,765	15	7	65,307	5	5
Turkey,	146,906	1	3	82,449	10	4
Venice,	69,194	12	4	20,294	18	7
Greenland,	74,523	8	11	2,609	4	9
Iſland of Alderney,	22	15	—	4,517	6	11
Iſland of Guernſey,	32,829	19	8	60,581	1	8
Iſland of Jerſey,	15,649	1	11	29,150	14	11
Iſland of Sark,	81	9	5	54	—	—
Canada,	111,451	13	—	267,384	14	9
Cape Breton,	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carolina,	228,070	15	10	310,198	3	7
Florida,	18,096	3	3	4,633	—	10
Georgia,	45,919	14	7	44,396	4	6
Hudſon's Bay,	11,270	5	2	5,125	10	4
New England,	56,647	11	11	163,348	5	3
Newfoundland,	63,584	11	7	198,227	6	4
New York,	61,671	10	9	405,762	12	—
Nova Scotia,	7,084	9	10	207,345	9	8
Pennſylvania,	57,705	6	5	369,215	8	5
Iſland of St. John, Gulf of St. Laurence,	—	—	—	—	—	—
Virginia & Maryland,	443,580	6	2	1,015,102	8	3
Anguilla,	2,829	15	6	—	—	—
Antigua,	384,651	7	7	82,463	12	—
Bahamas,	14,150	8	1	33,235	5	4
Barbadoes,	249,959	4	8	151,654	—	10
Bermuda,	990	18	9	6,118	5	10
Dominica,	257,967	2	8	61,695	2	—
Grenada,	438,448	9	5	119,131	8	3
Honduras Bay,	29,153	16	5	1,647	15	6
Jamaica,	2,262,905	3	8	626,310	—	9
Montſerrat,	44,055	6	5	6,629	15	2
Muſquito Shore,	20,282	11	9	247	9	1
Nevis,	88,213	6	10	6,838	17	9
St. Croix,	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Euſtatius,	—	—	—	338	7	—
St. Kitt's,	318,618	10	8	67,753	4	6
St. Lucia,	18,572	19	3	—	—	—
St. Thomas's,	1,504	7	10	—	—	—
St. Vincent's,	157,144	5	1	54,432	18	3
Tobago,	40,773	16	5	313	3	8
Tortola,	85,876	1	7	18,406	8	—
Demerara,	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Domingo,	—	—	—	—	—	—
Surinam,	—	—	—	1	15	—
St. Martin's,	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cape Francois,	—	—	—	—	—	—
Havannah,	—	—	—	—	—	—
New Orleans,	727	10	—	1,583	—	3
Buenos Ayres,	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northern Fiſhery,	1,554	2	5	—	—	—
Southern Fiſhery,	8,483	12	11	2,403	9	10
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To authorize certain great officers of ſtate to pay bounties granted by his Majeſty to perſons in low and indigent circumſtances.

For the further encouragement of the Britiſh fiſheries.

A. D. 1785 To prohibit the exportation to foreign parts of tools, &c. employed in our iron and ſteel manufactories, and to prevent the ſeducing the workmen to go abroad.

To prohibit, for a limited time, the exportation of hay.

SUPPLIES granted by Parliament for this year:—

	£.	s.	d.
For the navy, — — —	2,551,307	17	2
For the army, — — — —	2,286,263	9	$0\frac{5}{8}$
For the ordnance, — — —	392,855	15	5
Miſcellaneous ſervices, — — —	2,857,160	0	$10\frac{3}{4}$
Deficiencies, — — — —	1,208,713	13	$4\frac{1}{4}$
Total Supplies,	9,296,300	15	$10\frac{5}{8}$

The WAYS and MEANS for raiſing the foregoing ſupplies.

	£.	s.	d.
Land tax and duty on malt, — —	2,750,000	0	0
Exchequer bills, — — — —	2,500,000	0	0
To be applied out of the ſinking fund, — —	702,539	16	$1\frac{1}{2}$
The amount of ſtoppages, reſpites, and other monies, remaining in the hands of the Paymaſter General, &c. — —	231,578	18	2
By further Exchequer bills, — — —	1,000,000	0	0
Overplus of grants for the year 1784, — —	66,161	3	$5\frac{1}{2}$
Further application out of the ſinking fund, —	2,297,460	3	$10\frac{1}{2}$
Lottery, — — — —	150,000	0	0
Remaining in the Exchequer for the diſpoſal of Parliament,	238,928	16	3
Total of Ways and Means, —	9,936,668	17	$10\frac{1}{2}$
Total amount of Supplies granted,	9,296,300	15	$10\frac{5}{8}$
Exceſs of Ways and Means, —	640,368	1	$11\frac{7}{8}$

The charge of the pay and cloathing of the militia for this year, was voted to be paid out of the produce of the land tax,

The navy, victualling, and tranſport bills, dated on or before the 30th of June, 1783, with the intereſt due thereon to the 5th of July 1785, were in this year funded at the rate of 111l. 8s. ſtock, bearing 5 per cent. intereſt for every 100l. ariſing from the principal and intereſt of the ſaid bills: and navy, &c. bills made out between the 30th of June, 1783, and the 1ſt of January, 1785, with the intereſt due thereon, were funded on the like terms, except that from theſe was deducted a ſum at the rate of 5s. per cent. on the amount of the principal and intereſt of every month between the 1ſt day of July, 1783, and the day on which ſuch bills were made out. The ſtock ſo created is irredeemable, until 25,000,000 of the public debt, either of 3 or 4 per cent. annuities ſhall be redeemed or paid off. Ordnance debentures, dated on or before the 31ſt of December, 1783, bearing intereſt at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, from the expiration of fifteen months from their date, were likewiſe funded, at the rate of 111l. 8s. ſtock, bearing 5 per cent. intereſt for every 100l. and irredeemable in like manner as the navy bills. The intereſt of the navy and ordnance debt thus funded,

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1785 with ſome other ſervices amounting to 413,000l. were to be provided by the following taxes:——

NEW TAXES.	£.	s.	d.
Male ſervants, calculated to produce	35,000	0	0
Female ſervants, ditto,	140,000	0	0
Shops, ditto,	100,000	0	0
Attornies, ditto,	20,000	0	0
Poſt-horſes, ditto,	50,000	0	0
Gloves, ditto,	50,000	0	0
Pawnbrokers, ditto,	15,000	0	0
Salt, by a new regulation, ditto,	12,000	0	0
Total of new taxes,	422,000	0	0

An account of the chriſtenings and burials within the bills of mortality in London, for this year.

Chriſtened, males	9,085	Buried, males	9,447
——— females	8,834	—— females	9,472
	17,919		18,919

1786 The commencement of the ſeſſion of Parliament in this year took place on the 24th of January, which was opened, as uſual, by a ſpeech from the throne; in which his Majeſty, after having mentioned the amicable concluſion to which the diſputes that threatened an interruption to the tranquillity of Europe had been brought, the friendly diſpoſition of foreign powers towards this country, the extenſion of trade, the improvement of the revenue, and the increaſe of public credit, informed his Parliament that the reſolutions which they had laid before him, as the baſis of an adjuſtment of the commercial intercourſe between Great Britain and Ireland, had been, by his direction, recommended to the Parliament of that kingdom, but that no effectual ſtep had hitherto been taken thereupon, which could enable them to make any further progreſs in that ſalutary work. He afterwards called the attention of the Houſe of Commons to the eſtabliſhment of a fixed plan for the reduction of the national debt; a meaſure which, he truſted, the flouriſhing ſtate of the revenue would be ſufficient to effect, with little addition to the public burthens. He concluded with ſaying, that the vigour and reſources of the country, ſo fully manifeſted in its preſent ſituation, would encourage his Parliament to give their utmoſt attention to every object of national concern, particularly to the conſideration of ſuch meaſures as might be neceſſary in order to give further ſecurity to the revenue, and to promote and extend, as far as poſſible, the trade and general induſtry of his ſubjects.

The miniſter had, very early in this ſeſſion, taken notice of that part of his Majeſty's ſpeech which related to the neceſſity of providing for the diminution of the national debt: he had, at the ſame time, given the Houſe to underſtand, that ſuch was the preſent flouriſhing condition of the revenue, that the annual national income would not only equal the annual public diſburſements, but would leave a very conſiderable ſurplus; this ſurplus he propoſed to form into a permanent fund, to be conſtantly and invariably applied to the liquidation of the public debt.

1786 debt. In purſuance of this information to the Houſe, and in order to aſcertain the amount of the ſurplus in queſtion, Mr. Pitt, previous to his entering into the ſtate of the finances, or ways and means for the preſent year, moved, "That the ſeveral accounts, and other papers preſented that ſeſſion relating to the public income and expenditure, be referred to the conſideration of a ſelect committee, and that the ſaid committee be directed to examine and report to the Houſe what might be expected to be the annual amount of the income and expenditure in future."

This motion was unanimouſly agreed to; and the ſelect committee having framed their report, laid it before the Houſe on the 21ſt of March. The Chancellor of the Exchequer on the 29th, brought the conſideration of the national debt, and his propoſition for the diminution of it, together with the ſupplies and ways and means, formally before the Houſe. The committee prefaced their report with obſerving, "That having proceeded to the conſideration of the matters referred to them by the Houſe, they had arranged ſeveral papers relating thereto, under diſtinct heads, containing the different articles of the public income and expenditure.

"That before they entered on the firſt part of their report, they thought it neceſſary to premiſe, that they had confined their examination to the preſent ſtate of the revenue, as it appeared either from the amount actually received in the periods mentioned in the papers referred to them, or from the beſt eſtimates which they could form of the produce of ſuch articles as had not been brought to account in thoſe periods, but compoſe, nevertheleſs, a part of the preſent income of the public. The large amount of the taxes impoſed ſince the commencement of the late war, in addition to the then ſubſiſting revenue, the difficulties under which the different branches of our commerce laboured during the continuance of that war, and the great encreaſing prevalence of ſmuggling previous to the meaſures which had been recently adopted for its ſuppreſſion, appeared to them to render any averages of the amount of the revenue in former periods, in a great degree, inapplicable to the preſent ſituation of the country; nor did they think themſelves competent to the diſcuſſion of the various contingencies which might in future operate to the increaſe or diminution of the public income: a revenue ſo complicated in its nature, and depending ſo much on the various branches of an extenſive commerce, muſt always be liable to temporary fluctuations, even although no circumſtances ſhould ariſe to occaſion any permanent alteration in its produce; that they had therefore judged it proper to ſubmit to the wiſdom of the Houſe ſuch an extenſive conſideration, and to ſtate in their report the preſent amount of the public income, as reſulting from the papers before them.

After making all the neceſſary deductions, the ſeveral articles of the public receipt and expenditure, from Michaelmas 1784 to Michaelmas 1785, and from January 1785 to January 1786, ſtood in the report as follows:—

RECEIPT.	*From Mich.* 1784, *to Mich.* 1785.	*From Jan.* 5, 1785, *to Jan.* 5, 1786.
	£.	£.
Total net payments into the Exchequer, after deducting the reſpited duties paid by the Eaſt India Company, and the exceſs of the future amount of window duties,	11,874,213	12,042,697
Further produce of window duty impoſed by 25th Geo. II.	380,056	253,534
Further produce of duty on two and four-wheel carriages,	59,281	107,186
To complete the former duty on male ſervants, —	26,803	42,444
Carried forward,	12,340,353	12,445,861

Brought over,	£. 12,340,353	£. 12,445,861
Further produce of duties on horſes, waggons, and carts,	56,829	73,610
Further produce of taxes in 1784,	103,000	22,000
Further produce of taxes impoſed in 1785, including the improvement of the medicine duty,	265,000	242,000
Paid at the exciſe and alienation office, in part of civil liſt,	14,000	14,000
Produce of the land and malt taxes,	2,600,000	2,600,000
Totals of Receipt,	£. 15,379,182	£. 15,397,471

EXPENDITURE.

Intereſt and charges of the public debts,	£. 9,275,769	
Exchequer bills,	258,000	
Civil liſt,	900,000	
Charges on aggregate fund,	64,600	
Navy,	1,800,000	
Ordnance,	348,000	
Army,	1,600,000	
Militia,	91,000	
Miſcellaneous ſervices,	74,274	
Appropriated duties,	66,538	
Totals of Expenditure,	£. 14,478,181	£. 14,478,181
Annual Surplus,	£. 901,001	£. 919,290

This account of the public receipts for two years, may, at this time, be conſidered as the annual income of this country, and upon the true ſtatement of which there is every reaſon to rely. There is a ſmall difference in the two ſtatements of about 20,000l. in the two terms; which, however, can be of no conſequence to the general object for which they were made.—In ſhort, from the report of the committee, the regulations that have been made to cruſh clandeſtine trade, and other meaſures in agitation to repreſs the frauds on the revenue, it might be ſaid, with truth, that the nation poſſeſſed an increaſing annual income of 15,000,000l. and upwards, which might be confidently relied on as poſſeſſing a fund for an annual diminution of the national debt.

As to the annual expenditure of the nation, which the committee ſtated to amount to upwards of 14,000,000l. there is great part of the particular items of which this ſum is made up, that the committee omitted to mention, becauſe the ſums charged have been previouſly ſtated by act of Parliament. Theſe they conſider as permanent expences, and, therefore, diſtinguiſh them from what is fluctuating. In the former deſcription they include the intereſt of the national debt, the Exchequer bills, civil liſt, charges on the aggregate fund, and the appropriated duties, the whole of which diviſion amounts to 10,564,000l. and upwards.

The other claſs of expences includes the different eſtabliſhments for the defence of the nation,—as the army, the navy, the ordnance, and the militia, &c.—There may be extraordinary charges for theſe purpoſes; but in the preſent eſtimate, the committee ſtated the expence only that muſt be occaſioned by a peace eſtabliſhment, which they have done on a very enlarged and liberal ſcale.

They allow for the navy, during peace, 18,000 men, which is beyond former peace eſtabliſhments, and for this they ſet apart the ſum of 1,800,000l. It muſt be obſerved, however, that the committee do not ſtate what ought to be the expence of our navy, but only what, after the deduction of all other expences, would remain as a ſurplus; it was accordingly their buſineſs to ſtate every thing on the largeſt poſſible footing. They have taken the army upon the ſame mode of reaſoning, and allow for the charge of it 1,600,000l. The ordnance alſo is ſtated largely, though it will not, probably, ſuffer any deduction; as it was found that we were very deficient in that branch of warlike preparation at the beginning of the laſt war; it would, therefore, be extremely imprudent to run a ſimilar riſk in future.

The miſcellaneous ſervices are ſtated upon a liberal average of ſeveral preceding years. They have ariſen chiefly from addreſſes of Parliament to the King for particular grants, and alſo from the eſtabliſhments of our colonies abroad, and from bills of exchange drawn by their governors upon the Treaſury: theſe ſervices are ſtated at 74,000l.—Deducting, therefore, the whole expenditure from the annual income, there remains a ſurplus of 900,000l.

Such is the ſum which remained to be applied to the purpoſe of decreaſing the national debt; but as the fund for that end was propoſed to be a million annually, the miniſter mentioned his deſign of moving for certain taxes to make up the deficiency.

But though the amount of the expenditure, as ſtated in the report, with reſpect to the navy, army, and ordnance, was large and ample, as calculated for times of peace, and as they were to ſtand in future, yet it fell infinitely ſhort of what was the actual expenditure for thoſe eſtabliſhments for the preſent year, or what would be ſo for two or three years to come. The effects of the late expenſive war would be naturally felt for ſome time longer, and the neceſſary claims it had left on the public purſe, were ſuch as muſt meet with a compliance. Thus, for inſtance, the naval half-pay and penſion liſts were unavoidably much increaſed, and a number of ſhips which were now on the ſtocks, were to be completed; ſo that the allowance for the navy, which, according to the report, was no more than 1,800,000l. amounts, in the preſent year, to 2,400,000l. In the ſame manner, the exceedings of the army, ariſing from the ſame enormous increaſe of the half-pay and penſion liſts, amounted to 260,000l. over and above the ſum allowed for that ſervice in the report. Theſe exceedings, however, from their very nature, would gradually diminiſh, and, in time, be reduced to nothing. Suppoſing them, therefore, to laſt four years, ſuch were the extraordinary reſources of this country, that an adequate proviſion could be found, without laying any freſh burthens on the people. The ſurpluſſes of the ſeveral funds, and the army ſavings,—the arrears ſtill due from paymaſters,—a lottery, if neceſſary,—balance due from the Eaſt India Company for the ſubſiſtence of troops in India, and of victualling the navy,—the unclaimed dividends in the funds,—the ſale of crown lands,—the increaſe of the cuſtoms, ariſing from the ſuppreſſion of ſmuggling,—other regulations at this time in agitation relative to the revenues,—and a plan under conſideration for the conſolidation of the cuſtoms, formed a maſs of reſources fully equal to the exceedings of our eſtabliſhments already mentioned, if not more than ſufficient to diſcharge them.

For the purpoſe of enſuring the due application of this ſinking fund of 1,000,000l. per annum to its deſtined object, it was propoſed to veſt in a certain number of commiſſioners the full power of diſpoſing of it in the purchaſe of ſtock for the public in their own names: the Speaker of the Houſe of Commons, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Maſter of the Rolls, the Governor and Deputy-governor of the Bank of England, and the Accountant-general of the High Court of Chancery, were propoſed as the commiſſioners, who ſhould receive the annual

1786 nual million by quarterly payments of 250,000l. to be iſſued out of the Exchequer, before any other money, except the intereſt of the national debt. By theſe proviſions, the fund would be ſecured, and no deficiencies in the national revenues could affect it, as all ſuch were intended to be ſeparately provided for by Parliament. According to theſe calculations it appears, that the accumulated compound intereſt on a million yearly, together with the annuities that will fall into that fund, will, in 28 years, amount to ſuch a ſum as will leave a ſurplus of four millions annually, to be applied, if neceſſary, to the exigencies of the ſtate.

From the reaſonings and ſtatements employed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on this important occaſion, it was evident, firſt, that the yearly income of the ſtate exceeded the permanent level of its expenditure, by a ſum of 900,000l.; ſecondly, that this ſum would be increaſed to 1,000,000l. by means in no wiſe burthenſome to the people; thirdly, that although the preſent eſtabliſhment exceeded, in certain inſtances, the ſame eſtabliſhments as ſtated in the report of the ſelect committee, yet there were ample reſources and contingent and outſtanding receipts ſufficient to overbalance ſuch exceſſes, without having recourſe to any freſh taxes; and, laſtly, that the ways and means for the preſent year would be ſufficient to furniſh the ſupplies, together with the ſum of 250,000l. to be applied quarterly towards the eſtabliſhment of the new fund; and, after all, would leave a conſiderable balance to be carried to the next year. On theſe grounds, Mr. Pitt moved, "That the ſum of 1,000,000l. be annually granted to certain commiſſioners, to be by them applied to the purchaſe of ſtocks, towards diſcharging the public debt of this country; which money ſhall ariſe out of the ſurpluſſes, exceſſes, and overplus monies compoſing the fund commonly called the ſinking fund."—The policy ofmaking the income of the ſtate ſo far exceed its expenditure as to leave a conſiderable ſurplus towards the liquidation of the public debt, was univerſally acknowledged; and the motion was accordingly carried in the affirmative without a diviſion.

Some objections were however made, on the part of oppoſition, to the propoſed plan, reſpecting the mode of accompliſhing it, and the fallacy of the calculations; but theſe objections were over-ruled, and the bill at length received the royal aſſent, and promiſes to anſwer, to the utmoſt extent, the patriotic deſign of the miniſter who propoſed it.

As it was a very principal object of the meaſures of the preſent ſeſſion to extend and ſecure to Great Britain the bleſſings of peace, the melioration of her revenues, and the improvement of her commerce, we ſhall juſt mention ſuch as were intended to promote theſe great views, and particularly to give ſtrength and permanence to our commerce.

The firſt of them conſiſted of a bill, which was brought forward by Mr. Charles Jenkinſon, ſince created Lord Hawkeſbury, for the further increaſe and encouragement of our ſhipping and navigation, and to prevent the frauds by which former regulations were ſuppoſed to have been evaded. It is well known that the navigation laws of Great Britain are in direct oppoſition to the abſtract and philoſophical ideas that have been entertained in behalf of free trade; and it is not leſs notorious that they are an object of extreme attachment, and a ſource of high popularity among the ſubjects of the Britiſh realm; and in order to ſtrengthen their operations, this bill enacts, that, in future, no ſhips ſhould be deemed Britiſh-built that were not actually built in Great Britain or her dominions: it alſo extended and regulated the mode of regiſter upon that ſubject, as well as raiſed to an higher amount what was called the alien's duty, impoſing it on the Americans, who were very juſtly conſidered as no longer entitled to an exemption from it.

1786 Several other meaſures, founded upon that ſyſtem of monopoly and national preference which form the ſpirit of the navigation laws, were brought forward in this ſeſſion by the ſame gentleman. The acts of Parliament by which bounties were given to the fiſheries of Newfoundland, Greenland, and the South Sea, being on the point of expiring, it was intended, with ſome variation, to perpetuate theſe meaſures. In moving for the bill for increaſing the fiſhery of Newfoundland, Mr. Jenkinſon explained to the Houſe of Commons the principle upon which that fiſhery ought to be conducted. It was eſſential to preſerve it entirely a Britiſh fiſhery; and this could be only done by confining it to Britiſh ſhips, navigated from Great Britain, and by preventing any permanent ſettlement from being made on the iſland of Newfoundland. The obvious conſequence of ſuch a ſettlement would be, as it happened in New England, that the colony would take the fiſhery into its own hands, and they would thereby be ultimately and perpetually loſt to this country. He ſuggeſted various proviſions to remedy this inconvenience, and particularly that the ſtages, curing houſes, &c. on the iſland ſhould be no longer the property of thoſe who might have erected them than while they employ them in the buſineſs of the fiſhery; and that, if left, they ſhould become liable to be occupied by thoſe who arrived firſt at the time of the enſuing ſeaſon.

With reſpect to the Greenland fiſhery, the deſign of Mr. Jenkinſon was to reduce the bounty from 40s. which was then given, to 30s. He ſtated, that the ſums which this country had paid in bounties for the Greenland fiſhery amounted to 1,265,461l.; that, in the laſt year, we had paid 94,858l.; and that, from the conſequent reduction of the price of the fiſh, the public, at preſent, paid 60 per cent. upon every cargo. In the Greenland fiſhery there were employed 6,000 ſeamen, and theſe ſeamen coſt government 13l. 10s. per man per annum, though we were never able to obtain more than 500 of that number to ſerve on board our ſhips of war. Beſides, the vaſt encouragement given to the trade had occaſioned ſuch a glut in the market, that it was found neceſſary to export conſiderable quantities; and thus we paid a large ſhare of the purchaſe-money for foreign nations, as well as for our own people, beſides ſupplying them with the materials of ſeveral important manufactures. This propoſition was oppoſed by ſeveral reſpectable members of Parliament, but was finally carried.

The affairs of the Eaſt India Company engroſſed no inconſiderable attention in the courſe of the preſent ſeſſion, and ſeveral bills were paſſed for the further government of the Britiſh territories and regulation of affairs in the Eaſt Indies.

A conſiderable portion of the latter part of this ſeſſion was alſo given to the production of charges againſt Warren Haſtings, Eſq. late governor-general of Bengal, and to the hearing of his defence. Two of theſe charges were regularly debated; the one concerning his conduct in the Rohilla war, in which he was acquitted of criminality; and the other reſpecting the depoſition of the Rajah of Benares, which was declared to contain matter of impeachment againſt him. The ſucceeding charges were poſtponed to another ſeſſion.

On the 11th of July, his Majeſty put an end to this ſeſſion by a ſpeech from the throne; in which he obſerved, that he could not diſmiſs his Parliament without expreſſing the particular ſatisfaction with which he had obſerved their diligent attention to the public buſineſs, and the meaſures they had adopted for improving the reſources of the country. After thanking the Houſe of Commons for the proviſion they had made for diſcharging the incumbrances of the civil liſt, and mentioning the plan for the reduction of the national debt in terms of high approbation, he added, that the happy effects of peace had already appeared in the extenſion

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A. D. 1786 of the national commerce, and that no meaſure ſhould be wanting, on his part, which could tend to confirm theſe advantages, and to give additional encouragement to the manufactures and induſtry of his people.

On the 7th of May, a treaty of alliance and commerce, which had been ſigned the preceding year by the plenipotentiaries of the King of Pruſſia and the United States of America, at the courts of the Hague, London, and Paris, was ratified, in due form, by the American Congreſs. This treaty is to be in force for ten years from the exchange of ratifications.

On the 24th of July, a convention was ſigned at London between his Britannic Majeſty and the King of Spain; the object of which is, the ſettlements, boundaries, and trade of the Muſquito coaſts, &c. The principal articles are as follow:—

" Article I. His Britannic Majeſty's ſubjects, and the other coloniſts who have hitherto enjoyed the protection of England, ſhall evacuate the country of the Muſquitos, as well as the continent in general, and the iſlands adjacent, without exception, ſituated beyond the line deſcribed in the ſecond article, as what ought to be the frontier of the extent of territory granted by his Catholic Majeſty to the Engliſh, for the uſes ſpecified in the third article of the preſent convention, and in addition to the country already granted them in virtue of the ſtipulations agreed upon by the commiſſioners of the two crowns in 1783.

" II. It is agreed that the Engliſh line, beginning from the ſea, ſhall take the centre of the river Sibun or Jabon, and continue up to the ſource of the ſaid river; from thence it ſhall croſs, in a ſtraight line, the intermediate land, till it interſects the river Wallis; and by the centre of the ſame river the ſaid line ſhall deſcend to the point where it will meet the line already ſettled and marked out by the commiſſaries of the two crowns in 1783; which limits, following the continuation of the ſaid line, ſhall be obſerved as formerly ſtipulated by the definitive treaty.

" III. Britiſh ſubjects are permitted to cut all other wood, as well as logwood, not excepting mahogany; and to gather and carry away the fruits and produce of the earth in their natural and uncultivated ſtate; and alſo to uſe ſaw-mills for cutting or otherwiſe preparing the wood.

" IV. and V. The Engliſh are permitted to occupy the ſmall iſland known by the names of Caſſina, St. George's Key, or Cayo Caſſina, in conſideration of the circumſtance of that part of the coaſts oppoſite to the ſaid iſland being looked upon as ſubject to dangerous diſorders. They are alſo allowed the liberty of refitting their merchant ſhips in the ſouthern triangle included between the point Cayo Caſſina and the cluſter of ſmall iſlands which are ſituated oppoſite to that part of the coaſt occupied by the cutters, at the diſtance of eight leagues from the river Wallis, ſeven from Cayo Caſſina, and three from the river Sibun, a place which has been always found to be well adapted to that purpoſe. But no fortifications or military works are to be conſtructed in theſe places, nor any ſhips of war to be ſtationed there.

" VI. The Engliſh are allowed to fiſh on the coaſt of the country aſſigned to them by the laſt treaty of peace, as alſo of that which is added to them by the preſent convention, &c.

" VIII. It is agreed, that, if in courſe of time, the Engliſh ſhould be in want of dying wood or mahogany, with which the Spaniſh poſſeſſions might be provided, the Spaniſh government ſhall make no difficulty to furniſh a ſupply to the Engliſh at a fair and reaſonable price.

The other articles contain ſeveral ſubordinate regulations concerning formalities, &c. between the officers and ſubjects of the two powers.

A. D.
1786 On the 26th of September, the following treaty of commerce and navigation between his Britannic Majeſty and the Moſt Chriſtian King, was ſigned at Verſailles. The novelty as well as importance of this treaty, and the advantages it promiſes to the dominions of Great Britain, induces us to inſert it in all its form and extent.

TREATY *of* COMMERCE *and* NAVIGATION *between his* Britannic Majeſty *and the Moſt* Chriſtian King, *ſigned at Verſailles, the 26th of September*, 1786; *as publiſhed by authority.*

" His Britannic Majeſty, and his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, being equally animated with the deſire not only of conſolidating the good harmony which actually ſubſiſts between them, but alſo of extending the happy effects thereof to their reſpective ſubjects, have thought that the moſt efficacious means for attaining thoſe objects, conformably to the 18th article of the treaty of peace, ſigned the 6th of September, 1783, would be to adopt a ſyſtem of commerce on the baſis of reciprocity and mutual convenience; which, by diſcontinuing the prohibitions and prohibitory duties which have exiſted for almoſt a century between the two nations, might procure the moſt ſolid advantages, on both ſides, to the national productions and induſtry, and put an end to contraband trade, no leſs injurious to the public revenue than to that lawful commerce which is alone entitled to protection: for this end, their ſaid Majeſties have named for their commiſſaries and plenipotentiaries, to wit, the King of Great Britain, William Eden, Eſq. privy counſellor in Great Britain and Ireland, member of the Britiſh Parliament, and his envoy extraordinary and miniſter plenipotentiary to his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty; and the Moſt Chriſtian King, the Sieur Joſeph Mathias Gerard de Rayneval, knight, counſellor of ſtate, knight of the royal order of Charles III.; who, after having exchanged their reſpective full powers, have agreed upon the following articles:—

" Article I. It is agreed and concluded between the Moſt Serene and Moſt Potent King of Great Britain, and the Moſt Serene and Moſt Potent the Moſt Chriſtian King, that there ſhall be a reciprocal and entirely perfect liberty of navigation and commerce between the ſubjects of each party, in all and every the kingdoms, ſtates, provinces, and territories ſubject to their Majeſties in Europe, for all and ſingular kinds of goods, in thoſe places, upon the conditions, and in ſuch manner and form as is ſettled and adjuſted in the following articles.

" II. For the future ſecurity of commerce and friendſhip between the ſubjects of their ſaid Majeſties, and to the end that this good correſpondence may be preſerved from all interruption and diſturbance, it is concluded and agreed, that if, at any time, there ſhould ariſe any miſunderſtanding, breach of friendſhip, or rupture between the crowns of their Majeſties, which God forbid! (which rupture ſhall not be deemed to exiſt until the recalling or ſending home of the reſpective ambaſſadors or miniſters) the ſubjects of each of the two parties reſiding in the dominions of the other, ſhall have the privilege of remaining and continuing their trade therein, without any manner of diſturbance, ſo long as they behave peaceably, and commit no offence againſt the laws and ordinances; and in caſe their conduct ſhould render them ſuſpected, and the reſpective governments ſhould be obliged to order them to remove, the term of twelve months ſhall be allowed them for that purpoſe, in order that they may remove, with their effects and property, whether entruſted to individuals or to the ſtate. At the ſame time it is to be underſtood, that this favour is not to be extended to thoſe who ſhall act contrary to the eſtabliſhed laws.

" III. It is likewiſe agreed and concluded, that the ſubjects and inhabitants of the kingdoms, provinces, and dominions of their Majeſties, ſhall exerciſe no acts of hoſtility or violence againſt each other, either by ſea or by land, or in rivers, ſtreams, ports, or havens, under any colour or pretence whatſoever; ſo that the ſubjects of either party ſhall receive no patent, commiſſion, or inſtruction for arming and acting at ſea as privateers, nor letters of repriſal, as they are called, from any princes or ſtates, enemies to the other party; nor by virtue, or under colour of ſuch patents, commiſſions, or repriſals, ſhall they diſturb, infeſt, or any way prejudice or damage the aforeſaid ſubjects and inhabitants of the King of Great Britain, or of the Moſt Chriſtian King; neither ſhall they arm ſhips in ſuch manner as is above ſaid, or go out to ſea therewith. To which end, as often as it is required by either party, ſtrict and expreſs prohibitions ſhall be renewed and publiſhed in all the territories, countries, and dominions of each party whereſoever, that no one ſhall in any wiſe uſe ſuch commiſſions or letters of repriſal, under the ſevereſt puniſhment that can be inflicted on the tranſgreſſors, beſides being liable to make full reſtitution and ſatisfaction to thoſe to to whom they have done any damage; neither ſhall any letters of repriſal be hereafter granted by either of the high contracting parties to the prejudice or detriment of the other, except only in ſuch caſe wherein juſtice is denied or delayed; which denial or delay of juſtice ſhall not be regarded as verified, unleſs the petitions of the perſon who deſires the ſaid letters of repriſal, ſhall be communicated to the miniſter reſiding there on the part of the Prince againſt whoſe ſubjects they are to be granted; that within the ſpace of four months, or ſooner, if poſſible, he may manifeſt the contrary, or procure the ſatisfaction which may be juſtly due.

" IV. The ſubjects and inhabitants of the reſpective dominions of the two Sovereigns ſhall have liberty, freely and ſecurely, without licence or paſſport, general or ſpecial, by land or by ſea, or any other way, to enter into the kingdoms, dominions, provinces, countries, iſlands, cities, villages, towns, walled or unwalled, fortified or unfortified, ports, or territories whatſoever, of either Sovereigns, ſituated in Europe, and to return from thence, remain there, or to paſs through the ſame, and therein to buy and purchaſe, as they pleaſe, all things neceſſary for their ſubſiſtence and uſe, and they ſhall mutually be treated with all kindneſs and favour:—Provided, however, that in all theſe matters, they behave and conduct themſelves conformably to the laws and ſtatutes, and live with each other in a friendly and peaceable manner, and promote reciprocal concord, by maintaining a mutual good underſtanding.

" V. The ſubjects of each of their ſaid Majeſties may have leave and licence to come with their ſhips, as alſo with the merchandizes and goods on board the ſame, the trade and importation whereof are not prohibited by the laws of either kingdoms, and to enter into the countries, dominions, cities, ports, places, and rivers of either party, ſituated in Europe, to reſort thereto, and to remain and reſide there, without any limitation or time; alſo to hire houſes, or to lodge with other perſons, and to buy all lawful kinds of merchandizes, where they think fit, either from the firſt maker or the ſeller, or in any other manner, whether in the public market for the ſale of merchandizes, or in fairs, or wherever ſuch merchandizes are manufactured or ſold. They may likewiſe depoſit and keep in their magazines and warehouſes the merchandizes brought from other parts, and afterwards expoſe the ſame to ſale, without being in any wiſe obliged, unleſs willingly and of their own accord, to bring the ſaid merchandizes to the marts and fairs. Neither are they to be burthened with any impoſitions or duties on account of the ſaid freedom of trade, or for any other cauſe whatſoever, except thoſe which are to be paid for their ſhips and merchandizes, conformably to the regulations of the preſent treaty, or thoſe to which the ſubjects of the two contracting parties ſhall themſelves be liable. And they ſhall have free leave to remove themſelves, as alſo their wives, children, and ſervants, together

with

1786 with their merchandizes, property, goods, or effects, whether bought or imported, wherever they ſhall think fit, out of either kingdom, by land and by ſea, on the rivers and freſh waters, after diſcharging the uſual duties; any law, privilege, grant, immunities, or cuſtoms, to the contrary thereof in any wiſe notwithſtanding. In matters of religion, the ſubjects of the two crowns ſhall enjoy perfect liberty:—they ſhall not be compelled to attend divine ſervice, whether in the churches or elſewhere; but, on the contrary, they ſhall be permitted, without moleſtation, to perform the exerciſes of their religion privately, in their own houſes, and in their own way. Liberty ſhall not be refuſed to bury the ſubjects of either kingdom who die in the territories of the other, in convenient places to be appointed for that purpoſe; nor ſhall the funerals or ſepulchres of the deceaſed be in any wiſe diſturbed. The laws and ſtatutes of each kingdom ſhall remain in full force and vigour, and ſhall be duly put in execution, whether they relate to commerce and navigation, or to any other right, thoſe caſes only excepted, concerning which it is otherwiſe determined in the articles of this preſent treaty.

" VI. The two high contracting parties have thought proper to ſettle the duties on certain goods and merchandizes, in order to fix invariably the footing on which the trade therein ſhall be eſtabliſhed between the two nations: in conſequence of which, they have agreed upon the following tariff, viz.

" 1ſt. The wines of France, imported directly from France into Great Britain, ſhall, in no caſe, pay any higher duties than thoſe which the wines of Portugal now pay.

" The wines of France, imported directly from France into Ireland, ſhall pay no higher duties than thoſe which they now pay.

" 2d. The vinegars of France, inſtead of ſixty-ſeven pounds five ſhillings and three-pence and twelve-twentieths of a penny ſterling, per ton, which they now pay, ſhall not, for the future, pay in Great Britain, any higher duties than thirty-two pounds eighteen ſhillings and ten-pence, and ſixteen-twentieths of a penny ſterling per ton.

" 3d. The brandies of France, inſtead of nine ſhillings and ſix-pence and twelve-twentieths of a penny ſterling, ſhall, for the future, pay in Great Britain, only ſeven ſhillings ſterling per gallon, making four quarts, Engliſh meaſure.

" 4th. Oil of olives, coming directly from France, ſhall, for the future, pay no higher duties than are now paid for the ſame from the moſt favoured nations.

" 5th. Beer ſhall pay reciprocally a duty of thirty per cent. *ad valorem*.

" 6th. The duties on hardware, cutlery, cabinet-ware, turnery, and alſo all works, both heavy and light, of iron, ſteel, copper, and braſs, ſhall be claſſed; and the higheſt duty ſhall not exceed ten per cent. *ad valorem*.

" 7th. All ſorts of cottons manufactured in the dominions of the two ſovereigns in Europe, and alſo woollens, whether knit or wove, including hoſiery, ſhall pay, in both countries, an import duty of 12 per cent. *ad valorem*; all manufactures of cotton or wool, mixed with ſilk excepted, which ſhall remain prohibited on both ſides.

" 8th. Cambrics and lawns ſhall pay, in both countries, an import duty of 5s. or ſix livres Tournois, per demi piece of 7¾ yards, Engliſh meaſure; and linens, made of flax or hemp, manufactured in the dominions of the two ſovereigns in Europe, ſhall pay no higher duties, either in Great Britain or France, than linens manufactured in Holland or Flanders, imported into Great Britain, now pay.

" And linen made of flax or hemp, manufactured in Ireland or France, ſhall reciprocally pay no higher duties, than linens manufactured in Holland, imported into Ireland, now pay.

A. D. 1786 “ 9th. Sadlery ſhall reciprocally pay an import duty of 15 per cent. *ad valorem*.

“ 10th. Gauzes of all ſorts ſhall reciprocally pay 10 per cent. *ad valorem*.

“ 11th. Millinery made up of muſlin, lawn, cambric, or gauze of every kind, or of any other article admitted under the preſent tariff, ſhall pay reciprocally a duty of 12 per cent. *ad valorem*: and if any articles ſhall be uſed therein, which are not ſpecified in the tariff, they ſhall pay no higher duties than thoſe paid for the ſame articles by the moſt favoured nations.

“ 12th. Porcelain, earthen-ware, and pottery, ſhall pay reciprocally twelve per cent. *ad valorem*.

“ 13th. Plate-glaſs and glaſs-ware in general ſhall be admitted, on each ſide, paying a duty of 12 per cent. *ad valorem*.

“ His Britannic Majeſty reſerves the right of countervailing, by additional duties on the under-mentioned merchandizes, the internal duties actually impoſed upon the manufactures, or the import duties which are charged on the raw materials; namely, on all linens or cottons, ſtained or printed, on beer, glaſs ware, plate glaſs, and iron.

“ And his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty alſo reſerves the right of doing the ſame, with regard to the following merchandizes; namely, cottons, iron, and beer.

“ And for the better ſecuring the due collection of the duties payable *ad valorem*, which are ſpecified in the above tariff, the ſaid contracting parties will concert with each other as well the form of the declarations to be made, as alſo the proper means of preventing fraud with reſpect to the real value of the ſaid goods and merchandizes.

“ But if it ſhall hereafter appear that any miſtakes have inadvertently been made in the above tariff, contrary to the principles, on which it is founded, the two ſovereigns will concert with good faith upon the means of rectifying them.

“ VII. The duties above ſpecified are not to be altered but by mutual conſent; and the merchandizes not above ſpecified ſhall pay, in the dominions of the two ſovereigns, the import and export duties payable in each of the ſaid dominions by the moſt favoured European nations, at the time the preſent treaty bears date; and the ſhips belonging to the ſubjects of the ſaid dominions ſhall alſo reſpectively enjoy therein all the privileges and advantages which are granted to thoſe of the moſt favoured European nations.

“ And it being the intention of the two high contracting parties, that their reſpective ſubjects ſhould be in the dominions of each other, upon a footing as advantageous as thoſe of other European nations, they agree that, in caſe they ſhall hereafter grant any additional advantages in navigation or trade to any other European nation, they will reciprocally allow their ſaid ſubjects to participate therein; without prejudice, however, to the advantages which they reſerve, viz. France in favour of Spain, in conſequence of the 24th article of the family compact, ſigned the 10th of May, 1761, and England according to what ſhe has practiſed in conformity to, and in conſequence of the convention of 1703, between England and Portugal.

“ And to the end that every perſon may know, with certainty, the ſtate of the aforeſaid impoſts, cuſtoms, import and export duties, whatever they may be, it is agreed that tariffs, indicating the impoſts, cuſtoms, and eſtabliſhed duties, ſhall be affixed in public places, as well in Rouen and the other trading cities of France, as in London and the other trading cities under the dominion of the King of Great Britain, that recourſe may be had to them whenever any difference ſhall ariſe concerning ſuch impoſts, cuſtoms, and duties, which ſhall not be levied, otherwiſe than in conformity to what is clearly expreſſed in the ſaid tariffs, and according to their natural conſtruction: and if any officer, or other perſon in his name, ſhall,

A. D. 1786 under any pretence, publicly or privately, directly, or indirectly, demand or take of a merchant, or of any other perſon, any ſum of money, or any thing elſe, on account of duties, impoſt, ſearch, or compenſation, although it be under the name of a free gift, or under any other pretence, more or otherwiſe than what is above preſcribed; in ſuch caſe the ſaid officer, or his deputy, if he be accuſed and convicted of the ſame before a competent judge, in the place where the crime was committed, ſhall give full ſatisfaction to the injured party, and ſhall likewiſe ſuffer the penalty preſcribed by the laws.

“ VIII. No merchandizes exported from the countries reſpectively under the dominion of their Majeſties, ſhall hereaſter be ſubject to be inſpected or confiſcated, under any pretence of fraud or defect in making or working them, or of any other imperfection whatſoever; but abſolute freedom ſhall be allowed to the buyer and ſeller to bargain and fix the price for the ſame, as they ſhall ſee good; any law, ſtatute, edict, proclamation, privilege, grant, or cuſtom to the contrary notwithſtanding.

“ IX. Whereas ſeveral kinds of merchandizes, which are uſually contained in caſks, cheſts, or other caſes, and for which the duties are paid by weight, will be exported from and imported into France by Britiſh ſubjects; it is agreed that, in ſuch caſe, the aforeſaid duties ſhall be demanded only according to the real weight of the merchandizes; and the weight of the caſks, cheſts, and other caſes whatever, ſhall be deducted, in the ſame manner as has been, and is now practiſed in England.

“ X. It is further agreed, that if any miſtake or error ſhall be committed by any maſter of a ſhip, his interpreter or factor, or by others employed by him, in making the entry or declaration of her cargo, neither the ſhip nor the cargo ſhall be ſubject for ſuch defect, to confiſcation; but it ſhall be lawful for the proprietors to take back again ſuch goods as were omitted in the entry or declaration of the maſter of the ſhip, paying only the accuſtomed duties according to the placart, provided always that there be no manifeſt appearance of fraud. Neither ſhall the merchants, or the maſters of ſhips, or the merchandize, be ſubject to any penalty by reaſon of ſuch omiſſion, in caſe the goods omitted in the declaration ſhall not have been landed before the declaration has been made.

“ XI. In caſe either of the two high contracting parties ſhall think proper to eſtabliſh prohibitions, or to augment the import duties upon any goods or merchandize of the growth or manufacture of the other, which are not ſpecified in the tariff, ſuch prohibitions or augmentations ſhall be general, and ſhall comprehend the like goods and merchandizes of the other moſt favoured European nations, as well as thoſe of either ſtate; and in caſe either of the two contracting parties ſhall revoke the prohibitions, or diminiſh the duties, in favour of any other European nation, upon any goods or merchandize of its growth or manufacture, whether on importation or exportation, ſuch revocations or diminutions ſhall be extended to the ſubjects of the other party, on condition that the latter ſhall grant to the ſubjects of the former the importation and exportation of the like goods and merchandizes under the ſame duties; the caſes reſerved in the 7th article of the preſent treaty always excepted.

“ XII. And foraſmuch as a certain uſage, not authorized by any law, has formerly obtained in divers parts of Great Britain and France, by which French ſubjects have paid in England a kind of capitation tax, called in the language of that country head-money; and Engliſh ſubjects a like duty in France, called *Argent du Chef*; it is agreed, that the ſaid impoſt ſhall not be demanded for the future, on either ſide, neither under the antient name, nor underany other name whatſoever.

“ XIII. If

“ XIII. If either of the high contracting parties has granted, or ſhall grant, any bounties for encouraging the exportation of any articles, being of the growth, produce, or manufacture of his dominions, the other party ſhall be allowed to add to the duties already impoſed, by virtue of the preſent treaty, on the ſaid goods and merchandizes, imported into his dominions, ſuch an import duty as ſhall be equivalent to the ſaid bounty. But this ſtipulation is not to extend to the caſes of reſtitutions of duties and impoſts, (called drawbacks) which are allowed upon exportation.

“ XIV. The advantages granted by the preſent treaty to the ſubjects of his Britannic Majeſty ſhall take effect, as far as relates to the kingdom of Great Britain, as ſoon as laws ſhall be paſſed there, for ſecuring to the ſubjects of his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty the reciprocal enjoyment of the advantages which are granted to them by the preſent treaty.

“ And the advantages granted by all theſe articles, except the tariff, ſhall take effect, with regard to the kingdom of Ireland, as ſoon as laws ſhall be paſſed there, for ſecuring to the ſubjects of his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty the reciprocal enjoyment of the advantages which are granted to them by this treaty; and, in like manner, the advantages granted by the tariff ſhall take effect, in what relates to the ſaid kingdom, as ſoon as laws ſhall be paſſed there for giving effect to the ſaid tariff.

“ XV. It is agreed, that ſhips belonging to his Britannic Majeſty's ſubjects, arriving in the dominions of his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty from the ports of Great Britain or Ireland, or from any other foreign port, ſhall not pay freight duty, or any other like duty. In the ſame manner, French ſhips ſhall be exempted, in the dominions of his Britannic Majeſty, from the duty of 5s. and from every other ſimilar duty or charge.

“ XVI. It ſhall not be lawful for any foreign privateers, not being ſubjects of either crown, who have commiſſions from any other Prince or State, in enmity with either nation, to arm their ſhips in the ports of either of the ſaid two kingdoms, to ſell what they have taken, or in any other manner whatever to exchange the ſame; neither ſhall they be allowed even to purchaſe victuals, except ſuch as ſhall be neceſſary for their going to the neareſt port of that Prince from whom they have obtained commiſſions.

“ XVII. When any diſpute ſhall ariſe between any commander of a ſhip and his ſeamen, in the ports of either kingdom, concerning wages due to the ſaid ſeamen, or other civil cauſes whatever, the magiſtrate of the place ſhall require no more from the perſon accuſed, than that he give to the accuſer a declaration in writing, witneſſed by the magiſtrate, whereby he ſhall be bound to anſwer that matter before a competent judge in his own country; which being done, it ſhall not be lawful either for the ſeamen to deſert their ſhip, or to hinder the commander from proſecuting his voyage. It ſhall moreover be lawful for the merchants in the places of their abode, or elſewhere, to keep books of their accounts and affairs, as they ſhall think fit, and to have an intercourſe of letters, in ſuch language or idiom as they ſhall chuſe, without any moleſtation or ſearch whatſoever. But if it ſhould happen to be neceſſary for them to produce their books of accounts for deciding any diſpute or controverſy, in ſuch caſe, they ſhall be obliged to bring into court the entire books or writings, but ſo as the judge may not have liberty to take cognizance of any other articles in the ſaid books, than ſuch as ſhall relate to the affair in queſtion, or ſuch as ſhall be neceſſary to give credit to the ſaid books; neither ſhall it be lawful, under any pretence, to take the ſaid books or writings forcibly out of the hands of the owners, or to retain them, the caſe of bankruptcy only excepted. Nor ſhall the ſubjects of the King of Great Britain be obliged to write their accounts, letters, or

1786 other inſtruments relating to trade, on ſtamped paper, except their day-book, which, that it may be produced as evidence in any law-ſuit, ought, according to the laws which all perſons trading in France are to obſerve, to be indorſed and atteſted gratis by the judge, under his own hand.

“ XVIII. It is further agreed and concluded, that all merchants, commanders of ſhips, and others, the ſubjects of the King of Great Britain, in all the dominions of his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty in Europe, ſhall have full liberty to manage their own affairs themſelves, or to commit them to the management of whomſoever they pleaſe; nor ſhall they be obliged to employ any interpreter or broker, nor to pay them any ſalary, unleſs they ſhall chuſe to employ them. Moreover, maſters of ſhips ſhall not be obliged, in loading or unloading their ſhips, to make uſe of thoſe perſons who may be appointed by public authority for that purpoſe, either at Bourdeaux or elſewhere; but it ſhall be entirely free for them to load or unload their ſhips by themſelves, or to make uſe of ſuch perſons in loading or unloading the ſame, as they ſhall think fit, without the payment of any reward to any other whomſoever; neither ſhall they be forced to unload into other ſhips, or to receive into their own, any merchandize whatever, or to wait for their lading any longer than they pleaſe. And all the ſubjects of the Moſt Chriſtian King ſhall reciprocally have and enjoy the ſame privileges and liberties, in all the dominions of his Britannic Majeſty in Europe.

“ XIX. The ſhips of either party being laden, ſailing along the coaſts of the other, and being forced by ſtorm into the havens or ports, or making land there in any other manner whatever, ſhall not be obliged to unlade their goods, or any part thereof, or to pay any duty, unleſs they, of their own accord, unlade their goods there, and ſell ſome part thereof. But it ſhall be lawful, permiſſion having been firſt obtained from thoſe who have the direction of maritime affairs, to unlade and ſell a ſmall part of their cargo, merely for the end of purchaſing neceſſaries, either for victualling or refitting the ſhip; and in that caſe the whole lading ſhall not be ſubject to pay the duties, but that ſmall part only which ſhall have been taken out and ſold.

“ XX. It ſhall be lawful for all the ſubjects of the King of Great Britain, and of the Moſt Chriſtian King, to ſail with their ſhips, with perfect ſecurity and liberty, no diſtinction being made who are the proprietors of the merchandizes laden thereon, from any port whatever, to the countries which are now, or ſhall be hereafter at war with the King of Great Britain, or the Moſt Chriſtian King. It ſhall likewiſe be lawful for the aforeſaid ſubjects to ſail and traffic with their ſhips and merchandizes, with the ſame liberty and ſecurity, from the countries, ports and places of thoſe who are enemies of both, or of either party, without any oppoſition or diſturbance whatſoever, and to paſs directly not only from the places of the enemy aforementioned to neutral places, but alſo from one place belonging to an enemy, to another place belonging to an enemy, whether they be under the juriſdiction of the ſame, or of ſeveral Princes: and as it has been ſtipulated concerning ſhips and goods, that every thing ſhall be deemed to be free, which ſhall be found on board the ſhips belonging to the ſubjects of the reſpective kingdoms, although the whole lading, or part thereof, ſhould belong to the enemies of their Majeſties, contraband goods being always excepted, on the ſtopping of which, ſuch proceedings ſhall be had as are conformable to the ſpirit of the following articles; it is likewiſe agreed, that the ſame liberty be extended to perſons who are on board a free ſhip, to the end that, although they be enemies to both, or to either party, they may not be taken out of ſuch free ſhips, unleſs they are ſoldiers, actually in the ſervice of the enemies, and on their voyag for the purpoſe of being employed in a military capacity, in their fleets or armies.

" XXI. This liberty of navigation and commerce ſhall extend to all kinds of merchandizes, excepting thoſe only which are ſpecified in the following article, and which are deſcribed under the name of contraband.

" XXII. Under this name of contraband, or prohibited goods, ſhall be comprehended arms, cannon, harquebuſſes, mortars, petards, bombs, grenades, ſauciſſes, carcaſſes, carriages for cannon, muſket reſts, bandoleers, gunpowder, match, ſaltpetre, ball, pikes, ſwords, head-pieces, helmets, cuiraſſes, halberts, javelins, holſters, belts, horſes and harneſs, and all other like kinds of arms and warlike implements fit for the uſe of troops.

" XXIII. Theſe merchandizes which follow ſhall not be reckoned among contraband goods, that is to ſay, all ſorts of cloth, and all other manufactures of wool, flax, ſilk, cotton, or any other materials, all kinds of wearing apparel, together with the articles of which they are uſually made, gold, ſilver, coined or uncoined, tin, iron, lead, copper, braſs coals, as alſo wheat and barley, and any other kind of corn and pulſe, tobacco, and all kinds of ſpices, ſalted and ſmoaked fleſh, ſalted fiſh, cheeſe and butter, beer, oil, wines, ſugar, all ſorts of ſalt, and of proviſions which ſerve for ſuſtenance and food to mankind; all kinds of cotton, cordage, cables, ſails, ſail-cloth, hemp, tallow, pitch, tar and roſin, anchors, and any parts of anchors, ſhip-maſts, planks, timber of all kinds of trees, and all other things proper either for building or repairing ſhips. Nor ſhall any other goods whatever, which have not been worked into the form of any inſtrument or furniture for warlike uſe, by land or by ſea, be reputed contraband, much leſs ſuch as have been already wrought and made up for any other purpoſe. All which things ſhall be deemed goods not contraband, as likewiſe all others which are not comprehended and particularly deſcribed in the preceding article; ſo that they may be freely carried by the ſubjects of both kingdoms, even to places belonging to an enemy, excepting only ſuch places as are beſieged, blocked up, or inveſted.

" XXIV. To the end that all manner of diſſentions and quarrels may be avoided and prevented on both ſides, it is agreed, that in caſe either of their Majeſties ſhould be engaged in war, the ſhips and veſſels belonging to the ſubjects of the other ſhall be furniſhed with ſea-letters or paſſports, expreſſing the name, property and bulk of the ſhip, as alſo the name and place of abode of the maſter or commander of the ſaid ſhip, that it may appear thereby, that the ſhip really and truly belongs to the ſubjects of one of the Princes; which paſſports ſhall be made out and granted, according to the form annexed to the preſent treaty: they ſhall likewiſe be renewed every year, if the ſhip happens to return home within the ſpace of a year. It is alſo agreed, that ſuch ſhips when laden are to be provided not only with paſſports as above-mentioned, but alſo with certificates containing the ſeveral particulars of the cargo, the place from whence the ſhip ſailed, and whither ſhe is bound, ſo that it may be known whether ſhe carries any of the prohibited or contraband goods ſpecified in the 22d article of this treaty; which certificates ſhall be prepared by the officers of the place from whence the ſhip ſet ſail, in the accuſtomed form. And if any one ſhall think fit to expreſs in the ſaid certificates the perſon to whom the goods belong, he may freely do ſo.

" XXV. The ſhips belonging to the ſubjects and inhabitants of the reſpective kingdoms, coming to any of the coaſts of either of them, but without being willing to enter into port, or being entered, yet not willing to land their cargoes, or break bulk, ſhall not be obliged to give an account of their lading, unleſs they are ſuſpected, upon ſure evidence, of carrying prohibited goods, called contraband, to the enemies of either of the two high contracting parties.

" XXVI. In

1786. "XXVI. In caſe the ſhips belonging to the ſaid ſubjects and inhabitants of the reſpective dominions of their Moſt Serene Majeſties, either on the coaſt, or on the high ſeas, ſhall meet with any men of war belonging to their Moſt Serene Majeſties, or with privateers, the ſaid men of war and privateers, for preventing any inconveniencies, are to remain out of cannon ſhot, and to ſend their boats to the merchant ſhip which may be met with, and ſhall enter her to the number of two or three men only, to whom the maſter or commander of ſuch ſhip or veſſel ſhall ſhew his paſſport, containing the proof of the property of the ſhip, made out according to the form annexed to this preſent treaty; and the ſhip which ſhall have exhibited the ſame, ſhall have liberty to continue her voyage, and it ſhall be wholly unlawful any way to moleſt or ſearch her, or to chace or compel her to alter her courſe.

"XXVII. The merchant ſhips belonging to the ſubjects of either of the two high contracting parties, which intend to go to a port at enmity with the other ſovereign, concerning whoſe voyage and the ſort of goods on board there may be juſt cauſe of ſuſpicion, ſhall be obliged to exhibit, as well on the high ſeas as in the ports and havens, not only her paſſports, but alſo her certificates, expreſſing that the goods are not of the kind which are contraband, as ſpecified in the 22d article of this treaty.

"XXVIII. If, on exhibiting the above-mentioned certificates, containing a liſt of the cargo, the other party ſhall diſcover any goods of that kind which are declared contraband, or prohibited, by the 22d article of this treaty, and which are deſigned for a port ſubject to his enemy, it ſhall be unlawful to break up or open the hatches, cheſts, caſks, bales, or other veſſels found on board ſuch ſhip, or to remove even the ſmalleſt parcel of the goods, whether the ſaid ſhip belongs to the ſubjects of the King of Great Britain, or of the Moſt Chriſtian King, unleſs the lading be brought on ſhore, in the preſence of the officers of the court of Admiralty, and an inventory made by them of the ſaid goods: nor ſhall it be lawful to ſell, exchange, or alienate the ſame in any manner, unleſs after due and lawful proceſs ſhall have been had againſt ſuch prohibited goods, and the judges of the Admiralty reſpectively ſhall, by ſentence pronounced, have confiſcated the ſame, ſaving always as well the ſhip itſelf, as the other goods found therein, which by this treaty are to be accounted free; neither may they be detained on pretence of their being mixed with prohibited goods, much leſs ſhall they be confiſcated as lawful prize: and if, when only part of the cargo ſhall conſiſt of contraband goods, the maſter of the ſhip ſhall agree, conſent, and offer to deliver them to the captor who has diſcovered them, in ſuch caſe, the captor having received ſuch goods, as lawful prize, ſhall forthwith releaſe the ſhip, and not hinder her, by any means, from proſecuting her voyage to the place of her deſtination.

"XXIX. On the contrary it is agreed, that whatever ſhall be found to be laden by the ſubjects and inhabitants of either party, on any ſhip belonging to the enemies of the other, although it be not contraband goods, ſhall be confiſcated in the ſame manner as if it belonged to the enemy himſelf; except thoſe goods and merchandizes which were put on board ſuch ſhip before the declaration of war, or the general order for repriſals, or even after ſuch declaration, if it were done within the times following; that is to ſay, if they were put on board ſuch ſhip in any port or place within the ſpace of two months after ſuch declaration, or order for repriſals, between Archangel, St. Peterſburg, and the Scilly iſlands, and between the ſaid iſlands and the city of Gibraltar; of ten weeks in the Mediterranean Sea; and of eight months in any other country or place in the world; ſo that the goods of the ſubjects of either Prince, whether they be contraband or otherwiſe, which, as aforeſaid, were put on board any ſhip belonging to an enemy before the war, or after the declaration of the ſame, within the time and limits

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above-mentioned, ſhall no wiſe be liable to confiſcation, but ſhall well and truly be reſtored, without delay, to the proprietors demanding the ſame: provided nevertheleſs that, if the ſaid merchandizes be contraband, it ſhall not be any ways lawful to carry them afterwards to the ports belonging to the enemy.

" XXX. And that more abundant care may be taken for the ſecurity of the reſpective ſubjects of their Moſt Serene Majeſties, to prevent their ſuffering any injury by the men of war or privateers of either party, all the commanders of the ſhips of the King of Great Britain, and of the Moſt Chriſtian King, and all their ſubjects, ſhall be forbid doing any damage to thoſe of the other party, or committing any outrage againſt them; and if they act to the contrary they ſhall be puniſhed, and ſhall moreover be bound, in their perſons and eſtates, to make ſatisfaction and reparation for all damages, and the intereſt thereof, of what nature ſoever.

" XXXI. For this cauſe, all commanders of privateers, before they receive their patents or ſpecial commiſſions, ſhall hereafter be obliged to give, before a competent judge, ſufficient ſecurity by good bail, who are reſponſible men, and have no intereſt in the ſaid ſhip, each of whom ſhall be bound in the whole for the ſum of thirty-ſix thouſand livres tournois, or fifteen hundred pounds ſterling; or if ſuch ſhip be provided with above one hundred and fifty ſeamen or ſoldiers, for the ſum of ſeventy-two thouſand livres tournois, or three thouſand pounds ſterling, that they will make entire ſatisfaction for all damages and injuries whatſoever, which they, or their officers, or others in their ſervice, may commit during their cruize, contrary to the tenor of this preſent treaty, or the edicts made in conſequence thereof by their Moſt Serene Majeſties, under penalty likewiſe of having their patents and ſpecial commiſſions revoked and annulled.

" XXXII. Their ſaid Majeſties being willing mutually to treat in their dominions the ſubjects of each other as favourably as if they were their own ſubjects, will give ſuch orders as ſhall be neceſſary and effectual, that the judgments and decrees concerning prizes in the court of Admiralty be given conformably to the rules of juſtice and equity, and to the ſtipulations of this treaty, by judges who are above all ſuſpicion, and who have no manner of intereſt in the cauſe in diſpute.

" XXXIII. And when the quality of the ſhip, goods, and maſter, ſhall ſufficiently appear, from ſuch paſſports and certificates, it ſhall not be lawful for the commanders of men of war to exact any further proof under any pretext whatſoever. But if any merchant ſhip ſhall not be provided with ſuch paſſports or certificates, then it may be examined by a proper judge, but in ſuch manner as, if it ſhall be found, from other proofs and documents, that it truly belongs to the ſubjects of one of the ſovereigns, and does not contain any contraband goods, deſigned to be carried to the enemy of the other, it ſhall not be liable to confiſcation, but ſhall be releaſed, together with its cargo, in order to proceed on its voyage.

" If the maſter of the ſhip named in the paſſports ſhould happen to die, or be removed by any other cauſe, and another put in his place, the ſhips and goods laden thereon ſhall nevertheleſs be equally ſecure, and the paſſports ſhall remain in full force.

" XXXIV. It is further provided and agreed, that the ſhips of either of the two nations, retaken by the privateers of the other, ſhall be reſtored to the former owner, if they have not been in the power of the enemy for four and twenty hours, ſubject to the payment, by the ſaid owner, of one-third of the value of the ſhip retaken, and of its cargo, guns and apparel; which third part ſhall be amicably adjuſted by the parties concerned; but if not, and in caſe they ſhould diſagree, they ſhall make application to the officers of the Admiralty of the place where the privateer which retook the captured veſſel ſhall have carried her.

"If the ſhip retaken has been in the power of the enemy above four and twenty hours, ſhe ſhall wholly belong to the privateer which retook her.

"In caſe of a ſhip being retaken by any man of war belonging to his Britannic Majeſty, or to his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, it ſhall be reſtored to the former owner, on payment of the thirtieth part of the value of ſuch ſhip, and of its cargo, guns, and apparel, if it was retaken within the four and twenty hours, and the tenth part if it was retaken after the four and twenty hours; which ſums ſhall be diſtributed, as a reward, amongſt the crews of the ſhips which ſhall have retaken ſuch prize. The valuation of the thirtieth and tenth parts above-mentioned ſhall be ſettled conformably to the regulations in the beginning of this article.

"XXXV. Whenſoever the ambaſſadors of either of their ſaid Majeſties, or other their miniſters having a public character, and reſiding at the court of the other Prince, ſhall complain of the injuſtice of the ſentences which have been given, their Majeſties ſhall reſpectively cauſe the ſame to be reviſed and re-examined in their councils, unleſs their councils ſhould already have decided thereupon, that it may appear, with certainty, whether the directions and proviſions preſcribed in this treaty, have been followed and obſerved. Their Majeſties ſhall likewiſe take care that this matter be effectually provided for, and that juſtice be done to every complainant within the ſpace of three months. However, before or after judgment given, and pending the reviſion thereof, it ſhall not be lawful to ſell the goods in diſpute, or to unlade them, unleſs with the conſent of the perſons concerned, for preventing any kind of loſs; and laws ſhall be enacted on both ſides for the execution of the preſent article.

"XXXVI. If any differences ſhall ariſe reſpecting the legality of prizes, ſo that a judicial deciſion ſhould become neceſſary, the judge ſhall direct the effects to be unladen, an inventory and appraiſement to be made thereof, and ſecurity to be required reſpectively from the captor for paying the coſts, in caſe the ſhip ſhould not be declared lawful prize; and from the claimant for paying the value of the prize, in caſe it ſhould be declared lawful; which ſecurities being given by both parties, the prize ſhall be delivered up to the claimant. But if the claimant ſhould refuſe to give ſufficient ſecurity, the judge ſhall direct the prize to be delivered to the captor, after having received from him good and ſufficient ſecurity for paying the full value of the ſaid prize, in caſe it ſhould be adjudged illegal. Nor ſhall the execution of the ſentence of the judge be ſuſpended by reaſon of any appeal, when the party againſt whom ſuch appeal ſhall be brought, whether claimant or captor, ſhall have given ſufficient ſecurity for reſtoring the ſhip or effects, or the value of ſuch ſhip or effects, to the appellant, in caſe judgment ſhould be given in his favour.

"XXXVII. In caſe any ſhips of war or merchantmen, forced by ſtorms or other accidents, be driven on rocks or ſhelves, on the coaſts of either of the high contracting parties, and ſhould there be daſhed to pieces and ſhipwrecked; all ſuch parts of the ſaid ſhips, or of the furniture or apparel thereof, as alſo of the goods and merchandizes as ſhall be ſaved, or the produce thereof, ſhall be faithfully reſtored, upon the ſame being claimed by the proprietors, or their factors, duly authoriſed, paying only the expences incurred in the preſervation thereof, according to the rate of ſalvage ſettled on both ſides; ſaving at the ſame time the rights and cuſtoms of each nation, the abolition or modification of which ſhall however be treated upon, in the caſes where they ſhall be contrary to the ſtipulations of the preſent article; and their

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A. D. 1786 Majeſties will mutually interpoſe their authority, that ſuch of their ſubjects as ſhall be ſo inhuman as to take advantage of any ſuch misfortune, may be ſeverely puniſhed.

"XXXVIII. It ſhall be free for the ſubjects of each party to employ ſuch advocates, attornies, notaries, ſolicitors and factors as they ſhall think fit; to which end the ſaid advocates and others above-mentioned, ſhall be appointed by the ordinary judges, if it be needful, and the judges be thereunto required.

"XXXIX. And for the greater ſecurity and liberty of commerce and navigation, it is further agreed, that both the King of Great Britain, and the Moſt Chriſtian King, ſhall not only refuſe to receive any pirates or ſea-rovers whatſoever into any of their havens, ports, cities, or towns, or permit any of their ſubjects, citizens, or inhabitants, on either part, to receive or protect them in their ports, to harbour them in their houſes, or to aſſiſt them in any manner whatſoever; but further they ſhall cauſe all ſuch pirates and ſea-rovers, and all perſons who ſhall receive, conceal, or aſſiſt them, to be brought to condign puniſhment, for a terror and example to others. And all their ſhips, with the goods or merchandizes taken by them, and brought into the ports of either kingdom, ſhall be ſeized as far as they can be diſcovered, and ſhall be reſtored to the owners, or their factors duly authorized or deputed by them in writing, proper evidence being firſt given in the court of Admiralty, for proving the property, even in caſe ſuch effects ſhould have paſſed into other hands by ſale, if it be proved that the buyers knew, or might have known, that they had been piratically taken. And generally all ſhips and merchandizes, of what nature ſoever, which may be taken on the high ſeas, ſhall be brought into ſome port of either kingdom, and delivered into the cuſtody of the officers of that port, that they may be reſtored entire to the true proprietor, as ſoon as due and ſufficient proof ſhall have been made concerning the property thereof.

"XL. It ſhall be lawful, as well for the ſhips of war of their Majeſties, as for privateers belonging to their ſubjects, to carry whitherſoever they pleaſe, the ſhips and goods taken from their enemies, without being obliged to pay any fee to the officers of the Admiralty, or to any judges whatever; nor ſhall the ſaid prizes, when they arrive at and enter the ports of their ſaid Majeſties, be detained or ſeized; neither ſhall the ſearchers, or other officers of thoſe places, viſit or take cognizance of the validity of ſuch prizes; but they ſhall be at liberty to hoiſt ſail at any time, to depart, and to carry their prizes to the place mentioned in the commiſſions or patents, which the commanders of ſuch ſhips of war ſhall be obliged to ſhew: on the contrary, no ſhelter or refuge ſhall be given in their ports to ſuch as have made a prize upon the ſubjects of either of their Majeſties; but if forced by ſtreſs of weather, or the dangers of the ſea, to enter therein, particular care ſhall be taken to haſten their departure, and to cauſe them to retire from thence as ſoon as poſſible, as far as it is not repugnant to former treaties made in this reſpect with other ſovereigns or ſtates.

"XLI. Neither of their Majeſties ſhall permit the ſhips of goods belonging to the ſubjects of the other to be taken within cannon ſhot of the coaſt, or in the ports or rivers of their dominions, by ſhips of war, or others having commiſſion from any prince, republic, or city whatſoever: but in caſe it ſhould ſo happen, both parties ſhall employ their united force to obtain reparation of the damage thereby occaſioned.

"XLII. But if it ſhall appear that the captor made uſe of any kind of torture upon the maſter of the ſhip, the crew, or others who ſhall be on board any ſhip belonging to the ſubjects of the other party, in ſuch caſe, not only the ſhip itſelf, together with the perſons, merchandizes, and goods whatſoever, ſhall be forthwith releaſed, without any delay, and ſet entirely free, but alſo ſuch as ſhall be convicted of ſo enormous a crime, together with their ac-

1786 complices, ſhall ſuffer the moſt ſevere puniſhment ſuitable to their offences: this the King of Great Britain and the Moſt Chriſtian King mutually engage ſhall be obſerved, without any reſpect of perſons whatſoever.

"XLIII. Their Majeſties ſhall reſpectively be at liberty, for the advantage of their ſubjects trading to the kingdoms and dominions of either of them, to appoint therein national conſuls, who ſhall enjoy the right, immunity, and liberty belonging to them, by reaſon of their duties and their functions; and places ſhall hereafter be agreed upon where the ſaid conſuls ſhall be eſtabliſhed, as well as the nature and extent of their functions. The convention relative to this point ſhall be concluded immediately after the ſignature of the preſent treaty, of which it ſhall be deemed to conſtitute a part.

"XLIV. It is alſo agreed, that in whatever relates to the lading and unlading of ſhips, the ſafety of merchandize, goods, and effects, the ſucceſſion to perſonal eſtates, as well as the protection of individuals, and the perſonal liberty, as alſo the adminiſtration of juſtice, the ſubjects of the two high contracting parties ſhall enjoy in their reſpective dominions, the ſame privileges, liberties, and rights, as the moſt favoured nation.

"XLV. If hereafter it ſhall happen, through inadvertency or otherwiſe, that any infractions or contraventions of the preſent treaty ſhould be committed on either ſide, the friendſhip and good underſtanding ſhall not immediately thereupon be interrupted; but this treaty ſhall ſubſiſt in all its force, and proper remedies ſhall be procured for removing the inconveniencies, as likewiſe for the reparation of the contraventions; and if the ſubjects of either kingdom ſhall be found guilty thereof, they only ſhall be puniſhed and ſeverely chaſtiſed.

"XLVI. His Britannic Majeſty and his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty have reſerved the right of reviſing and re-examining the ſeveral ſtipulations of this treaty, after the term of twelve years, to be computed from the day of paſſing laws for its execution in Great Britain and Ireland reſpectively, to propoſe and make ſuch alterations as the times and circumſtances may have rendered proper or neceſſary for the commercial intereſts of their reſpective ſubjects: and this reviſion is to be compleated in the ſpace of twelve months; after which term the preſent treaty ſhall be of no effect, but in that event, the good harmony and friendly correſpondence between the two nations ſhall not ſuffer the leaſt diminution.

"XLVII. The preſent treaty ſhall be ratified and confirmed by his Britannic Majeſty, and by his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, in two months, or ſooner if it can be done, after the exchange of ſignatures between the plenipotentiaries.

"In witneſs whereof, we, the under-ſigned commiſſioners and plenipotentiaries of the King of Great Britain and the Moſt Chriſtian King, have ſigned the preſent treaty with our hands, and have ſet thereto the ſeals of our arms.

"Done at Verſailles the 26th of September, 1786.

"WILLIAM EDEN, (L. S.)
"GERARD DE RAYNEVAL, (L. S.)"

FORM *of the* PASSPORTS *and* SEA-LETTERS *which are to be granted by the reſpective Admiralties of the Dominions of the two High Contracting Parties to the Ships and Veſſels ſailing from thence, purſuant to the twenty-fourth Article of the preſent Treaty.*

"N. N. To all who ſhall ſee theſe preſents, greeting.—Be it known that we have granted licence and permiſſion to N. of the city, (or place) of N. maſter or commander of the ſhip N. belonging to N. of the port of N. burthen tons or thereabouts, now lying in the port or haven of N. to ſail to N. laden with N. the ſaid ſhip having been examined before her departure, in the uſual manner, by the officers of the place appointed for that purpoſe. And the ſaid

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1786 ſaid N. or ſuch other perſon as ſhall happen to ſucceed him, ſhall produce this licence in every port or haven which he may enter with his ſhip, to the officers of the place, and ſhall give a true account to them of what ſhall have paſſed or happened during his voyage; and he ſhall carry the colours, arms, and enſigns of N. during his voyage.

"In witneſs whereof, we have ſigned theſe preſents, and ſet the ſeal of our arms thereto, and cauſed the ſame to be counterſigned by N. at in the year, &c."

The Canada ſales, in this year, amounted to 173,000l.

The revenue ariſing from the diſtillery in England for this and the preceding year, was,—

In 1785, — — — —	£. 314,040	0	0
— 1786, — — — — —	427,741	0	0
Total of the two years amounted to — —	741,781	0	0

An Account of the Variations in the rate of Duty on CORN WASH from Midſummer 1749, to Midſummer 1786, calculated from the reſpective Variations in the Duties on low Wines and Spirits, together with an Account of the average Quantity of Spirits annually made, and the average Amount of the Duties annually collected under each Rate.

Years.	*Average Quantity of Spirits annually made.*	*Rate per Gallon on the Waſh.*	*Average Amount of the Duties annually collected.*		
	Gallons.	*d.*	£.	*s.*	
1750, 1751,	6,571,305	$1\frac{3}{4}$	319,321	0	An additional duty was impoſed in the year 1751, but no ſpirits ſubject to that duty were made till the year 1752.
1753, 1754, 1755, 1756,	4,548,800	$2\frac{3}{4}\frac{2}{10}$	353,758	0	In March 1757 the making of ſpirits from corn was prohibited; the prohibition ended in April 1760.
1761,	2,714,119	$6\frac{2}{4}\frac{2}{10}$	474,957	0	
1763, 1764, 1765, 1766, 1767, 1768, 1769, 1770, 1771, 1772, 1773, 1774, 1775, 1776, 1777, 1778, 1779,	2,180,019	7	423,712	11	
1781,	2,299,493	$7\frac{2}{4}\frac{8}{10}$	489,787	16	Excluſive of 2 five per cents. viz. that of April 6, 1779, & April 6, 1781.
1782,			529,096	16	Including the 2 five per cents. of 1779 and 1781.
1783, 1784,	1,438,442	$8\frac{3}{4}\frac{42}{100}$	353,817	0	Including 3 five per cents.; the laſt of which was impoſed July 26, 1782.
1785,	3,014,784	5	314,040	0	
1786,	4,106,314	5	427,741	0	

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1786 An authentic account of corn and grain exported from, and imported into England and Scotland this year.

EXPORTED.

1786.	*Britiſh*	*Foreign*
ENGLAND.	*Qrs.*	*Qrs.*
Wheat, —	128,114	9,888
Wheat Flour,	64,855	1,303
Rye, —	5,467	1,269
Barley, —	14,973	1,423
Malt, —	79,656	——
Oats, —	12,215	1,324
Oatmeal, —	1,147	194
Beans, —	9,903	434
Peas, —	5,354	140
SCOTLAND.	*Qrs.*	*Qrs.*
Wheat, —	507	——
Wheat flour	798	——
Barley, —	9,383	——
Barley hulled, —	54	——
Bear, —	10,137	——
Bear-meal, —	98	——
Malt, —	6,108	——
Oats, —	2,300	——
Oatmeal,	2,113	——
Peas and Beans,	478	——

IMPORTED.

1786.	*Quarters.*
ENGLAND.	
Wheat, —	47,961
Wheat Flour,	3,502
Rye, —	311
Barley, —	50,143
———	——
Oats, —	405,334
Oat-meal, —	6,763
Beans, —	33,912
Peas, —	1,617
SCOTLAND.	
——— —	——
Barley, —	12,231
Rye, —	1
———	——
———	——
———	——
Oats, —	43,056
Oatmeal, —	23,320
Peas and Beans,	180

The bounties on corn and grain exported from England in the courſe of this year, amounted to 50,973l. 18s. 6¾d.

The drawbacks, during the ſame period, were 79l. 19s. 4d.

The amount of the bounties paid on corn and grain exported from Scotland, during the ſame time, was 2,830l. 1s. 10d.

The duties on corn imported into England, was 5,556l. 2s. 9d.; and, in Scotland, they amounted to 714l. 8s. 0d.

The average prices of corn in England and Wales, by the ſtandard Wincheſter buſhel, for this year, was as follows:—

Wheat, 4s. 10¼d.; rye, 3s. 4¾d.; barley, 3s. 0½; oats, 2s. 3d.; beans, 4s. 1¾d.

The prices of the coarſeſt ſorts of grain generally exceed and reduce the average price as follows:—

Wheat, 6d. per buſhel; rye, 3d.; barley, 3d.; oats, 3d.; beans, 6d.

An account of the chriſtenings and burials within the bills of mortality in London, for this year.

Chriſtened, males	9,183	Buried, males	10,253
——— females	8,936	—— females	10,201
	18,119		20,454

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The following are the variations of the public funds during this year, with the higheſt and loweſt prices arranged oppoſite to each month.

	Bank Stock.	*3 per cent. reduc*	*3 per cent. conſol*	*4 per cent. conſol*	*5 per cent.*	*Long Ann.*	*Short Ann. 1778*	*India Stock.*	*India Ann.*	*India Bonds.*	*Old Ann.*	*New Ann. 1777*	*Navy Bills.*	*Exchequer Bills.*	*Lottery Tickets.*
January,	140	69½	69⅛	87⅜	104½	20⅝	13⅛	156	65½	46p	67¾		2¼dif	11 pr.	14 9
	141	71⅛	72¼	89⅛	107⅝	21¾	13¼	162	66	56	69			12	14 17
February,	139½	69⅝	69⅛	88⅝	104¼	20⅜	13⅛	155	64⅞	46	68⅛	67⅜	2⅛	15	14 17
	140½	70⅞	70⅝	89⅜	105½	21	13⅜	159½	65⅞	55	69	68	2¼	10	20 0
March,	139½	70¼	68½	89	104⅛	20⅜	13¼	158½	66⅛	45	68	66⅜	2⅛	4	—
	142⅞	70½	70⅝	89¾	105⅞	20⅞	13⅜	159½	67⅛	58	69¼	68⅜	2¼	10	
April,	137	68½	69	87⅞	104	20⅝	13⅛	158¼	65⅞	45		67½	2¼	5	—
	138½	68⅞	70¼	90	106¾	22	13¾	160¼		57		68¾			
May,	137⅜	68⅞	69⅛	88	106⅛	21	13¾	159¼	65¼	46	67¾	69⅛	2⅛	5	—
	146½	73⅝	74½	92¼	111¼	22¼	14¼	162¾	69⅛	53	70¼	70¾	2¼	9	
June,	143	72	73½	91¼	110¼	22		158⅛	68	52	70¼	71⅛	2	14	14 8
	146¼	73⅞	74½	92⅜	111⅛	22⅛		162¼	68⅞	60	71	72¼	2¼	27	14 16
July,	146⅜	73⅛	74⅜	92⅛	111⅝	22	14¼	157	68¾	65	71⅝	73½	2	31	14 10
	150¾	75½	76	97½	114¼	22½	14⅝	161½	73½	83	74⅝	75⅞	2⅛	34	14 13
Auguſt,	150¾	77⅜	76	97⅜	114½	23	14¼	166	73½	83	76½	76	1½	42	14 11
	159	78⅞	78⅝	99	115¾	23⅛	14½	169½	74¾	110	78	77¾	2	50	14 19
Septemb.	156	78⅜	77⅛	98	112⅞	23⅛	14⅛	165½	74⅜	70	77⅜	76¾	1½	48	14 19
	159½	78⅝	78⅛	98½	115⅛			168½	74¾	107	78	77⅛	1⅜	60	15 3
October,	149	75	75⅞	94	112⅞	22⅛	13⅞	163	71⅞	85	74⅜	75⅛	1⅜	42	15 1
	146½	77⅞	77¼	98½	113⅝	22⅞		167	73	91		76½		56	15 4
Novemb.	145½	73	73¾	91⅞	111¾	21⅞	13½	165½	69	84	72⅛	73⅝	1¾	10	14 18
	149⅛	75⅛	76½	94	113¼	22⅞	13¾	167¼	70¼	91	74½	75⅛	2⅛	40	15 3
Decemb.	146¼	73½	74¼	92⅜	112½	22	13½	166	69¼	70	72¾	73⅝	2⅛	15	14 16
	151½	74⅜	75⅛	93¼	113⅜	22⅛	13⅝	168¼	69¾	88	73⅝	74¼		17	14 19

The following bills relative to trade and commerce, received the royal aſſent this year:—

A bill for the further continuation, for a limited time, of the acts paſſed in the 23d and 24th of his preſent Majeſty; touching the commercial intercourſe between the United States of North America and his Majeſty's dominions.

For confining, to a limited time, the trade between the ports of the United States of America and his Majeſty's ſubjects in the iſland of Newfoundland, to bread, flour, Indian corn, and live-ſtock; to be imported in none but Britiſh-built ſhips, actually belonging to Britiſh ſubjects, and navigated according to law, &c.

For prohibiting, for a limited time, the exportation of hay.

For regulating the exportation of hops to Ireland.

To explain and amend certain proviſions of an act made in the 24th of his preſent Majeſty, reſpecting the better regulation and management of the affairs of the Eaſt India Company.

For obviating all doubts which have ariſen or might ariſe with reſpect to the excluſive power of the court of directors of the Eaſt India Company to nominate and appoint the governor-general and council of the preſidency of Fort William, in Bengal.

To amend the laws for the encouragement of the Newfoundland fiſhery.

For veſting certain ſums in commiſſioners at the end of every quarter of a year, to be by them applied to the reduction of the national debt.

For the further relief of debtors, with reſpect to the impriſonment of their perſons; and to oblige debtors who ſhall continue in execution in priſon beyond a certain time, and for ſums not exceeding what are mentioned in the act, to make diſcovery of, and deliver upon oath, their eſtates for their creditors benefit.

A. D. 1786 For the further encouragement of the fiſheries in the Greenland ſeas and Davis's Straits.

For regulating the production of manifeſts, and to prevent fraudulent practices in obtaining bounties and drawbacks, and in the clandeſtine lading of goods.

For the further encouragement of the growth of hemp and flax in England.

For more effectually preventing the fraudulent removal of tobacco, &c.

For the encouragement of the Southern whale fiſhery.

For the further encouragement of the pilchard fiſhery.

Reſpecting the importation of naval ſtores from the Britiſh colonies in America, Britiſh made gunpowder, Britiſh ſail-cloth, foreign ſail-cloth; the exportation of ſugars from the Britiſh colonies directly to foreign ports, in Britiſh built ſhips; the diſcontinuing of duties upon the importation of tallow, hogs-lard, and greaſe; and granting other duties on pot and pearl-aſhes, wood, and wood-aſhes, in the room of thoſe now repealed; for allowing the importation of ſalt from Europe to Quebec; the importation of raw goat-ſkins into this kingdom; for encouraging the manufacture of flax and cotton in Great Britain; for reviving the drawback on the duties on rum ſhipped as ſtores, and the allowing of a bounty on the importation of hemp and flax from the Britiſh American colonies.

For repealing certain duties on wines imported, and for granting new duties in lieu thereof, under the management of the commiſſioners of exciſe.

For the increaſe, &c. of ſhipping and navigation.

For the further regulation of the trial of perſons accuſed of certain offences committed in the Eaſt Indies; and for repealing part of an act made in the 24th of his preſent Majeſty, entitled, " An act for the better regulation and management of the affairs of the Eaſt India Company, of the Britiſh poſſeſſions in India, and eſtabliſhing a court of judicature for the more ſpeedy and effectual trial of perſons accuſed of offences committed in the Eaſt Indies;" and for the more eaſy proof in certain caſes of deeds and writings executed in Great Britain or India.

To appoint commiſſioners further to enquire into the fees, gratuities, perquiſites, and emoluments, which are or have been lately received in the ſeveral public offices therein mentioned, to examine into any abuſes which may exiſt in the ſame, and to report ſuch obſervations as ſhall occur to them for the better conducting and managing the buſineſs in the ſaid offices.

For appointing and enabling commiſſioners further to examine, take, and ſtate the public accounts of the kingdom.

To prevent the unlawful pawning of goods, and eaſy redemption of goods pawned, &c.

To enable the Eaſt India Company to raiſe money by the ſale of annuities, &c.

For the further preventing frauds in the payment of ſeamen's wages, &c.

For repealing ſo much of two acts of Parliament of the 14th and 21ſt of George III. as prohibits the exportation of wool-cards at a limited price.

To continue certain acts relating to the puniſhment of perſons going armed or diſguiſed contrary to the exciſe and cuſtom laws; and to prevent the committing of frauds by bankrupts.

Reſpecting the act allowing a bounty on the exportation of Britiſh made cordage.

For the more effectual encouragement of the Britiſh fiſheries.

For incorporating certain perſons therein named, by the name and ſtile of " The Britiſh Society for extending of the Fiſheries, and improving the Sea-coaſts of the Kingdom;" and to enable them, when incorporated, to ſubſcribe a joint ſtock, and therewith to purchaſe lands, and build thereon free towns, villages, and fiſhing ſtations in the Highlands and iſlands of Scotland, and for other purpoſes.

SUPPLIES

A. D. 1786

SUPPLIES granted by Parliament for this year:—	£.	s.	d.
For the navy,	2,428,326	18	8
For the army,	2,043,729	19	$2\frac{1}{4}$
For the ordnance,	346,877	17	1
Miſcellaneous ſervices,	7,255,400	0	$7\frac{1}{4}$
Deficiencies,	1,412,203	1	$6\frac{5}{8}$
Total Supplies,	13,486,537	17	$1\frac{1}{8}$

The WAYS and MEANS for raiſing the foregoing Supplies.	£.	s.	d.
Land tax and duty on malt,	2,750,000	0	0
To be applied out of the ſinking fund,	582,488	15	$9\frac{3}{4}$
Further application out of the ſinking fund,	1,000,000	0	0
Surplus of ditto,	628,982	0	1
Exchequer bills,	2,500,000	0	0
By certain ſurpluſſes of duties, &c.			
Lottery,	188,750	0	0
Surplus of monies granted for the army in 1784,	290,810	4	$6\frac{1}{8}$
Army ſavings and ſtoppages in 1785,	65,575	4	$1\frac{1}{2}$
Impreſt, and other monies in the Exchequer,	100,508	13	$1\frac{3}{4}$
Further application of the ſinking fund,	2,600,000	0	0
By further Exchequer bills,	3,000,000	0	0
Surplus of monies voted for Chelſea penſioners in 1785,	21,568	13	$2\frac{3}{4}$
Total of Ways and Means,	13,900,992	15	$4\frac{5}{8}$
Total amount of Supplies granted,	13,486,537	17	$1\frac{1}{8}$
Exceſs of Ways and Means,	414,454	18	$3\frac{1}{2}$

An authentic and correct liſt of the national debt, to the 5th of January in this year.

	Capitals.			*Intereſt.*		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Bank ſtock,	11,642,406	0	0	698,544	0	0
Five per cent. navy annuities,	17,869,993	9	10	893,499	13	5
Four per cent. conſols.	32,750,100	0	0	1,310,000	0	0
Three per cent. conſols.	107,401,696	5	1	3,222,050	17	9
Three per cent reduced,	37,340,073	4	0	1,120,202	4	3
Three per cent. of 1726,	1,000,000	0	0	30,000	0	0
Long annuities, of 610,375l. per annum, calculated at 21 years purchaſe only,	20,411,250	0	0	680,375	0	0
Short annuities, 1777, of 25,000l. per annum; ditto 1778 and 1779, of 412,500l. calculated at 14 years purchaſe,	6,125,000	0	0	437,500	0	0
Carried forward,	£.234,540,518	18	11	£.8,392,171	15	5

1786

Brought forward,	£.234,540,518	18	11	£.8,392,171	15	5
South Sea ſtock, — — —	3,662,784	8	6	128,197	9	1
Three per cent. old annuities, —	11,937,470	2	7	357,224	2	0
Three per cent. new ditto, —	8,494,830	2	10	254,844	18	1
Three per cent. of 1751, —	1,919,600	0	0	57,588	0	0
India ſtock, — — —	3,200,000	0	0	256,000	0	0
Three per cent, annuities, —	3,000,000	0	0	90,000	0	0
Total national debt,	266,755,203	12	10	9,536,026	4	7

1787 An event of the firſt importance to the commercial intereſts of this country, which had taken place ſubſequent to the concluſion of the laſt ſeſſion of Parliament, preſented itſelf to the immediate notice of that aſſembly, when it met, on the 23d of January in this year. This was the ſigning, at Verſailles, on the 26th of September preceding, a treaty of commerce between the courts of England and France, of which we have already given an authentic copy.

The ſpeech from the throne, at the commencement of the ſeſſion, obſerved upon the apparent tranquillity of Europe, and recommended the treaty of commerce to the ſanction of Parliament. It alſo referred three ſpecific meaſures to their approbation;—a convention reſpecting the cutting of logwood, with the Catholic King; a plan which had been formed for tranſporting a number of convicts to a part of the iſland of New Holland, known by the name of Botany Bay; and certain regulations for the accommodation of the mercantile part of the kingdom, and for ſimplifying the public accounts in the various branches of the revenue.

On the 12th of February, the day appointed for taking the treaty into conſideration, a petition was preſented from the Chamber of Manufacturers, ſtating their ſenſe of the ſerious and awful importance of the treaty,—and that, after the moſt careful inveſtigation, they had not been able to form any certain judgment upon the ſubject: they, therefore, deprecated the Houſes coming to a deciſive vote upon that day, and concluded with an alluſion to the providential effects which were univerſally allowed to have reſulted from the delay, that had been introduced by the mercantile intereſt into the diſcuſſion of the Iriſh propoſitions. This petition, however, not appearing to be of ſufficient weight to cauſe the diſcuſſion of the treaty to be deferred, Mr. Pitt entered upon a communication of the benefits which he conceived would reſult to Great Britain from this important tranſaction. As it may be reaſonably ſuppoſed, that the miniſterial ſpeeches on this occaſion contained the real grounds upon which the treaty was formed, we ſhall give the ſubſtance of them, as containing the beſt hiſtory of the nature, foundation, and particular objects of our new commercial alliance.

The treaty in queſtion had been, for a conſiderable time, in the hands of every manufacturer and merchant in the kingdom, and had been very freely diſcuſſed in a great variety of publications, without any complaint having been heard from any great manufacturing body of men, except the petition from the Chamber of Commerce; which, after all, did not ſtate any reaſons againſt the treaty, but reſted ſimply on the vague and unſatisfactory ground, that after between four and five months, the petitioners had not had ſufficient time to conſider it. The alluſion made to the conduct and communications of the manufacturers on the Iriſh propoſitions, and the utility which reſulted from the delay which their intervention occaſioned, was by no means calculated to enforce any arguments offered to keep back the diſcuſſion of the

A. D. 1787 the commercial treaty. While thoſe propoſitions were in agitation, the manufacturers of the kingdom had ſhown, that they poſſeſſed the moſt unremitting vigilance in watching over their intereſts, and, at leaſt, a ſufficient degree of firmneſs in maintaining their objections. There was not a commercial or manufacturing body that thought itſelf concerned, that did not inſtantly take the alarm and join in the general remonſtrances on the Iriſh propoſitions; while, on the preſent occaſion, the manufacturers, watchful as they are of their intereſts, had taken no alarm. The woollen trade, ſo naturally dear to this country, had manifeſted no ſpecies of apprehenſion: the manufacturers of cambrics, of glaſs, the diſtillery, and other members and branches of our domeſtic trade, though, in fact, particularly affected by the treaty, had made no complaint; much leſs had any notice of objection been received from the manufacturers in hardware, the potteries, &c.; and ſo far were the public from entertaining any diſlike, or even doubts concerning the merits of this treaty, that the generality of the nation were ſanguine in wiſhing for the ratification of it.

With reſpect to a right conception of the commercial part of the treaty, it will be neceſſary to conſider the relative ſtate of the two kingdoms which were to be bound by it. On the very firſt idea of the matter it appears, that France has the advantage in the gifts of ſoil and climate, and in the amount of her natural produce; while Great Britain was, on her part, confeſſedly ſuperior in her manufactures and artificial productions. In point of natural produce, France had greatly the advantage in this treaty; her wines, brandies, oils and vinegars, particularly the two former, are matters of ſuch important value in her produce, as to deſtroy all idea of reciprocity as to the natural produce:—we, perhaps, have nothing of that kind to put in competition, but ſimply the article of beer: but, on the contrary, is it not a fact as demonſtrably clear, that Britain, in its turn, poſſeſſes ſome manufactures excluſive of her own; and that in others ſhe has ſo completely the advantage of her neighbour, as to put competition at defiance. This then is the relative condition, and the preciſe ground on which a valuable correſpondence and connection between the two countries might be eſtabliſhed. Having each its own diſtinct ſtaple,—having each that which the other wanted, and not claſhing in the great and leading lines of their reſpective riches, they might be conſidered as two great traders in different branches, who might engage in a traffic that would prove mutually beneficial to them.—Granting that a large quantity of their natural produce would be brought into this country, it cannot, on the other hand, be denied, that we ſhould ſend more cottons by the direct courſe now ſettled, than by the circuitous paſſages formerly uſed, as well as more of our woollens than while reſtricted in their importation to particular ports and burdened with very heavy duties. Will not more of our earthen ware and other articles, which, under all the diſadvantages they formerly ſuffered, forced their way into France, now be ſent thither in far greater quantities; and will not the aggregate of our manufactures be greatly and eminently benefited in going to this market loaded only with duties from twelve to ten, and, in one inſtance, with only five per cent. If the advantages, in this reſpect, were not ſo palpable as to ſtrike every mind qualified to form a judgment on the ſubject, petitions would have flowed in from every quarter.

The article of ſadlery, which is charged the higheſt in the tariff, gave no kind of alarm.—The traders in this article, though charged with a duty of fifteen per cent. knew their ſuperiority ſo well, that they chearfully embraced the condition. A market of ſo many millions of people,—a market ſo near and prompt,—a market of expedition and certain return, of neceſſary and extenſive conſumption, thus added to the commerce and manufactures of Great Britain is

1787 an object of moſt advantageous acquiſition. To procure this we ought to give liberal conditions; nor ought we, in any degree to heſitate from the miſerable idea that, while this arrangement is ſo advantageous to us, will alſo be beneficial to them. It is not hereby a conſoling but an exhilarating ſpeculation to the mind of an Engliſhman, that after the empire had been engaged in a competition the moſt arduous and imminent it had ever known, after ſtruggling, as it were, for its exiſtence, that ſtill it maintained its rank and efficacy ſo firmly, that France, finding it could not ſhake her, opened its arms, and offered a beneficial connection with her, on eaſy, liberal and advantageous terms.

We agreed, by this treaty, to take from France, on ſmall duties, the luxuries of her ſoil, which our own refinements had converted into neceſſaries. The wines of France were already ſo much in poſſeſſion of our markets, that, with all the high duties paid by us, they found their way to our tables: it could not, therefore, but prove a very great advantage to admit theſe luxuries on eaſier terms: nor would the admiſſion of them ſupplant the wines of Portugal or of Spain; it would only operate, and very advantageouſly, to ſuppreſs, in a great meaſure, a pernicious manufacture of wines in this country. With reſpect to brandy, it is an equally beneficial and eligible meaſure to diminiſh the duties, the reduction of which muſt have a material effect on the contraband trade in this article. It is well known, that the quantity clandeſtinely imported bears a great proportion to the legal importation; the legal importation of brandy being no more than 600,000 gallons, and the ſuppoſed amount of the ſmuggled, according to the beſt founded eſtimation, between 300,000 and 400,000 gallons. As this article, therefore, had taken ſuch complete poſſeſſion of the taſte of the nation, it was certainly a right policy to procure to the ſtate a greater advantage from the article than heretofore, and to put an end to its contraband trade by legaliſing the market.

The oil and vinegar of France are comparatively ſmall objects, but, like the former, they were luxuries which had taken the ſhape of neceſſaries, and which, of courſe, we did right in accepting on eaſy terms. Theſe were the natural products of France to be admitted under the treaty. As to the manufactures of that country, the firſt article is cambric, and the fact is, that as we had long ago laid aſide all competition in that fabric, there could be no injury in granting an eaſy importation to that which we would have at any rate. In no other article is there any thing very formidable in the rivalry of France. Glaſs would not be imported to any amount; in particular kinds of lace, indeed, the French might have the advantage, but none which they would not enjoy independent of the treaty.

It has been argued by ſome ſpeculating politicians, that no beneficial treaty could be made between this country and France, becauſe no ſuch treaty had ever been formed; and becauſe, on the contrary, commercial intercourſes with her had always been injurious to England.—This reaſoning, however, was entirely fallacious: for, in the firſt place, we had, during a very long ſeries of years, experienced a commercial connection with France; and, ſecondly, though it might be true, that a commercial intercourſe founded on the treaty of Utrecht would have been injurious, it did not follow that this would prove the ſame, as, at that time, the manufactures in which we now excel poſſeſſed a bare exiſtence, and were on the ſide of France inſtead of being againſt her. The tariff did not then, as now, comprehend all the articles in which we comparatively excelled, but, in addition to the produce of France, which at all periods muſt be the ſame, ſhe had the balance of manufactures alſo in her favour. At that period alſo the prejudices of manufacturers againſt France were extreme, and correſponded with the party violence of the day in the reprobation of the meaſure; but ſo far was the Par-

1787 liament from entertaining an opinion, that any commercial treaty made with France muſt be detrimental to the intereſts of this country, that it preſented an addreſs to her Majeſty, (Queen Anne) praying her to renew commercial negotiations with the court of France. The fact really was, that we had not invariably conſidered it as a part of our policy to reſiſt all connection with France;—ſhe had ever been more jealous of us than we of her;—prohibitions began on the part of France, and we only retaliated in our own defence. The ſurrender of revenue for great commercial purpoſes, is a policy by no means unknown in the hiſtory of Great Britain;—increaſe by means of reduction may have been a paradox, but experience has long ſince eſtabliſhed it as an incontrovertible maxim of political œconomies.

If the relative ſituation of the two countries is changed,—if it is true, that at the treaty of Utrecht we had but little to ſend to France, and that now we had much to ſend thither,—that our manufactures were ſo confeſſedly ſuperior as to dread no competition, and greatly to counterbalance the natural produce of France, it may be aſked, what reaſon is there in policy or the nature of things to prevent our entering into the treaty; or whether there is any inſurmountable obſtacle to connections of intereſt and amity between the two countries.

As to the Methuen treaty, there is nothing in the treaty with France which prevents an entire compliance with the conditions of it, if the Britiſh legiſlature ſhould find it right, by the conduct of Portugal, to maintain the full force of that treaty. By enlarging our markets for wine, we neither infringed on the markets of Portugal or Spain: and as to any other powers, it has not been ſuggeſted that the treaty in queſtion could in the leaſt affect our connection with them.

Conſidering the treaty in a political view, the idea of France being the unalterable enemy of Great Britain muſt be done away. To ſuppoſe that any nation could be unalterably the enemy of another, was weak and childiſh. It had neither its foundation in the experience of nations, nor in the hiſtory of man. It is a libel on the conſtitution of political ſocieties, and ſuppoſed the exiſtence of a diabolical, immoveable malice in the original frame of our nature. If there is any thing in the treaty which could juſtify the ſuppoſition, that the interval of peace between the two countries would be ſo totally unemployed by us, as to diſable us from meeting France in the moment of war with our accuſtomed ſtrength? will it not rather, by opening new ſources of wealth, ſpeak this forcible language,—that the interval of peace, as it would enrich the nation, would alſo prove the means of enabling her to combat her enemy with more effect, when the day of hoſtility ſhould arrive: but it promiſes even more,—as, by promoting habits of friendly intercourſe and of mutual benefit, it will not only invigorate the reſources of Great Britain, but leſſen the probability of ſuch occaſions as muſt call them forth. It would certainly have, at leaſt, the happy tendency to make the two nations enter into more intimate communion with one another; and being endeared to each other by the reſult of common benefits, it gave every reaſon to hope for the preſervation of harmony between them. The proviſions of the treaty neither delude us into ſecurity, nor threaten to accompliſh our reduction; on the contrary, it promiſes to ſtrenghthen our hands,—and, at the ſame time, to throw the proſpect and the neceſſity of war at a very great diſtance. Whatever might be ſaid of the reſtleſs ambition of France, her crafty character and inceſſant enmity againſt Great Britain, her aſſurances and open conduct during the late negotiation, were of a nature as might juſtify reliance: at preſent the court of France is governed by maxims too prudent and political, not to conſult its own ſafety and happineſs beyond the miniſterial aims of impracticable conqueſt. Oppreſſed as this nation was during the late war, by a moſt formidable combination

1787 tion for its deſtruction, yet had France very little to boaſt at the end of the conteſt, which ſhould induce them again to enter deliberately into hoſtilities againſt this country; that country reflecting, that though ſhe had gained her object in diſmembering our empire, ſhe had done it at an expence which had ſunk herſelf in extreme embarraſſment, and that ſuch a combination of hoſtile power againſt us can never be imagined again to exiſt:—may not the idea be naturally cheriſhed, that ſeeing the ſteady and durable character of our ſtrength, and the inefficacy as well as the ruin of hoſtility, France would eagerly wiſh to try the benefits of an amicable connection with us. To imagine that the French would conſent to yield advantages without the expectation of a return, was too ridiculous to admit into argument; but though the treaty in queſtion would afford conſiderable benefit to them, there is every reaſon to believe that it would be more advantageous to us. The proof of this aſſertion is ſhort and indubitable. She gains for her wines and other produce a great and opulent market, we did the ſame to a much greater degree. She procured a market of 8,000,000, we a market of 24,000,000 of people.—France gained this market for her produce, which employed in preparation but few hands, gave little encouragement to its navigation, and produced but little to the ſtate; we gained this market for our manufactures, which employed many hundreds of thouſands, and which, in collecting the materials from every corner of the world, advanced our maritime ſtrength, as well as in all their combinations and in every article and ſtage of their proceſs, contributed largely to the ſtate. France could not gain the acceſſion of 100,000l. to her revenue by the treaty; but England muſt neceſſarily gain a million.—This may be eaſily demonſtrated.—The high price of labour in England ariſes chiefly from the exciſe, and three-fifths of the price of labour are ſaid to come into the Exchequer. The produce of France, on the contrary, is low in the ſtaple, and leſs productive to the ſtate in the proceſs. Even the reduced duties are ſo proportionably high, that France could not ſend us 500,000l. worth of brandies, but we muſt gain cent. per cent. by the article. In this view then, though France might gain, we muſt be, comparatively, ſo much more benefitted, that we ought not to ſcruple to give the diſproportionate advantages with which ſhe is ſatisfied. It is in the nature and eſſence of an agreement between a manufacturing country and a country bleſſed with peculiar productions, that the advantages muſt terminate in favour of the former; and the treaty was particularly diſpoſed and fitted for both the connections. Thus France is, by the peculiar diſpenſation of Providence, gifted, perhaps, more than any country upon earth, with what made life deſirable, in point of ſoil, climate, and natural productions; it poſſeſſes the moſt fertile vineyards and the richeſt harveſts; the greateſt luxuries of man were produced in it with little coſt and with moderate labour. Britain was not thus bleſſed by nature; but it, nevertheleſs, poſſeſſed, from the happy freedom of its conſtitution, and the equal ſecurity of its laws, an energy in its enterprize, and a ſtability in its exertions, which had gradually raiſed it to a ſtate of commercial grandeur; and not being ſo bountifully gifted by Heaven, it had recourſe to labour and art, by which it had acquired the ability of ſupplying its neighbour with all the neceſſary embelliſhments of life, in exchange for her natural luxuries. Thus ſtanding with regard to each other, a friendly connection ſeemed to be pointed out between them, inſtead of that ſtate of enmity, which rooted prejudice and party zeal can alone conſider as the natural relative poſition of the two countries.

In oppoſition to the commercial treaty, the following train of reaſoning was purſued with no common zeal, ability and eloquence.

It was urged that, by this treaty with France, we were belying the proſperity we actually poſſeſſed, and entering, like bankrupt merchants, on ſpeculations of no common riſque and danger.

danger. That our commerce was in a courſe of public benefit, which wanted not the aid of France to ſupport and enlarge it, was an opinion founded on the following ſtatement of it, from the year 1740 to the concluſion of the laſt peace: a period in which we had been enabled to ſuſtain the burden of three very expenſive wars from the increaſe of our commerce.

The moſt flouriſhing period of commerce which this country had ever known, was about the year 1750;—we had during other periods larger exports, but the balance of trade in our favour was then at the higheſt; it amounted to near five millions and an half; but, conſidering every circumſtance, it would not be accurate to aſſume more than four millions as our annual balance from the year 1740, to the concluſion of the laſt peace. This, therefore, being conſidered as the yearly average of foreign trade in our favour, it was neceſſary to enquire from what countries this balance was drawn.

About the year 1745, our trade with Holland was at its height; it then gave us a balance of near two millions a year, and though it is not now ſo great as it formerly was, it is ſtill the greateſt we have, and has for the laſt forty years produced an annual gain of about 1,400,000l.

Our trade with Germany is the next in importance, both with reſpect to its ſtability and extent, to our trade with Holland. This trade has not been ſubject to any great fluctuation from the beginning of the century; we have from that time cleared from it about 800,000l. and for the laſt forty or fifty years above 700,000l. a year.

After Holland and Germany, our next moſt beneficial trade was with Flanders. This trade was not great in the beginning of the century:—ſince the year 1740, it might be eſtimated at 600,000l. per annum;—ſince the year 1770, it had been on an average 800,000l. and in 1785, it was within fifty thouſand pounds of a million in our favour.

The balance of trade with Portugal had been, at an average, for thirty years previous to the peace in 1763, 800,000l.: for the year 1740 to the preſent time, it had amounted to above 400,000l. a year.

Our trade with Spain for the laſt forty years had given us near 400,000l.; though, at preſent, excluſive of the Newfoundland fiſh, it did not much exceed 150,000l. per annum. With North America, there had been a balance in our favour ſince the year 1740 of near 500,000l. per annum.

In this account Ireland is omitted, as on account of the different modes of valuing her linens in the Engliſh and Iriſh Cuſtom-houſe, there is a diverſity of opinion as to the balance. Our trade to Africa, as well as ſeveral other ſources of profitable commerce are alſo omitted, being conſidered as ſupplies to the drain which the nation experiences in its trade with Ruſſia, Sweden, Turkey, &c. with which countries, though the trade is beneficial on account of importing raw matetials and exporting manufactures, the balance is nevertheleſs againſt us.

From this ſtatement, the ancient channels appear, in which our commerce has flowed for upwards of half a century, with uninterrupted ſucceſs. Hitherto we have greatly proſpered in our commerce, without having had French markets open to us, or having had our markets open to them; and though it could not be poſſibly aſſerted, that this mutual interdiction of commerce had been the cauſe of our proſperity, yet, as we had proſpered, and did proſper without an open trade with France, it was imprudent to adopt a change of ſyſtem, and for ſpeculative benefits to riſk real advantages. If, during the laſt five years, our commerce had been ſtationary or encreaſing, where was the wiſdom of interrupting its courſe by new arrangements? Why ſhould it not be left to its own ſucceſsful operation? If it had diminiſhed, why ſhould we riſk its further diminution by opening a trade with France. It muſt have been in

1787 that caſe, from her rivalry in foreign markets, that our export trade had decreaſed; and if ſhe had driven us out of foreign markets, what chance could we have of meeting her in her own? It was therefore highly dangerous and impolitic to abandon a commercial ſyſtem by which we had riſen to our preſent heighth in the ſcale of nations, and to adopt one in its place which our anceſtors, from long experience had reprobated, as detrimental to the kingdom, was an unwiſe meaſure, and not to be juſtified, except by a change in the relative ſituations of Great Britain and France; the certainty of which change having taken place ſince the time of Charles the Second, had by no means been proved.

But deſcending from a general view of this great object, to the individual evils which were ſuppoſed to reſult from it, it was contended, in the firſt place, that our woollen manufacture would be injured by this treaty. Though it might be ſaid, with truth, that we had opened to ourſelves a market containing twenty-four millions of people, while France had only obtained a market of eight millions, yet no right eſtimate could be made on ſuch a ſcale of computation. The advantages were rather to be eſtimated from the conſumption of the nation's produce. The raw material, were it grown in the country, and then manufactured, was certainly the eſtimate of one nation's profit with another in a commercial intercourſe. As far, therefore, as the woollen articles we might export to France, by virtue of this treaty, were compoſed of Engliſh wool, we ſhould clearly have the benefit; but as we uſed at leaſt 350,000l. worth of Spaniſh wool in our manufactures of woollen cloths, we clearly loſt this advantage of the raw material: and what yet more increaſed our loſs was, that Spain might give France an opportunity of importing their wool under the ſanction of the treaty which reſtored both to France and Spain the privileges of the Family Compact; by which France would be able to manufacture this article, and afterwards ſerve us with the commodity which we before made ourſelves: and as it was a ſpecies of cloth which our wool would not make, we ſhould be obliged to purchaſe it from France, under the diſadvantage of their having the labour, and we the loſs of the artificers; and they the emoluments, and we the loſs of the manufacture.—As to brandy, it was contended, that the treaty in queſtion would, by no means, diminiſh the ſmuggling of that article into this country: 600,000 gallons were the eſtimate of the brandies imported; but of this quantity only 160,000 gallons were imported annually from France. It was therefore evident, that the reſt muſt be chiefly imported from Spain, or ſome other countries on that part of the continent; conſequently, to lower the duties of what was imported from France, could not increaſe the revenue; for, as what was imported from thence was evidently ſo diſproportionate to what we imported from Spain and other countries, no increaſe of conſumption in French brandies could poſſibly be expected.

The cotton manufactory was repreſented as being ſupported by the working a raw material of which no leſs a quantity than 17,000,000 of pounds of wool cotton was uſed; but of this quantity half was imported from France, Portugal, and the Brazils. Was not this, therefore, an alarming circumſtance to a manufacture of ſuch conſequence as that of cotton, fuſtian, and velvet was to this country?—By this treaty, France herſelf might withhold two millions of the quantity we uſed, and keep it for her own riſing manufactures: and if we were deprived of this raw material, one of our greateſt manufactures would be deſtroyed, or, at leaſt, tranſplanted to France. By this commercial treaty, it was argued, the Methuen treaty would be deſtroyed; as the principle of that treaty, namely, admitting the wines of Portugal one-third under thoſe of France, would have no longer an exiſtence, if the duties on French wines were reduced to the preſent duties on thoſe of Portugal. It was true, that by lowering the duties

A. D. 1787 one-third on Portugal wines afterwards, the treaty might be renewed; but to be obliged, in conſequence of this commercial treaty, to admit wines from France on the ſame terms as thoſe of Portugal, would be evincing that we had abandoned that principle of policy which had been the cement of our alliance with that country. Would ſhe not therefore conſider, that the inducement no longer exiſted which had been the cauſe of our long and proſperous friendſhip? This would certainly be a great obſtacle to her deſires to enter into treaty with us again.—Beſides, this commercial treaty with France muſt convince Portugal, that we had abandoned every principle of policy which had been her beſt defence againſt ſuperior and neighbouring powers: that, therefore, which tempted her to court our protection by ſuch an advantageous alliance, no longer exiſting, we could not expect that ſhe would haſten to renew it; and, if ſhe did, it might poſſibly be on terms much more advantageous to herſelf, and detrimental to us. If our luxury had converted wine into a neceſſary, that obſervation was particularly true of Portugal wines, which this country would never relinquiſh. The wines of Portugal, therefore, would continue to be imported; and if we did not pay for them with manufactures, we ſhould pay for them with money. As to cotton, it was a raw material neceſſary to the ſupport of our own induſtry; and, therefore, let the provocation on the part of Portugal be ever ſo great, would never be prohibited. It might be aſked—If the Methuen treaty was diſcontinued, what was to compenſate for the advantage which we loſt from 150,000l. worth of ſalt fiſh ſent annually to that country?—Where could we find a market for this invaluable article of our commerce?—If any where, we ſhould expect to have it in France: for as we loſe a benefit in conſequence of giving them an advantage, we certainly have a right to expect a compenſation from them. But France had a fiſhery of its own, and therefore muſt be the rival, inſtead of a cuſtomer of ours. It was evident, therefore, that in this inſtance, among others, a very material ſacrifice was offered to the pretences of France; as we ſhall loſe not only this ſale of our produce, but alſo the proportionate opportunity of reaping thoſe advantages from our fiſheries which rendered them the moſt immediate nurſeries of our ſeamen. The unalterable political enmity of France to Great Britain, and the impoſſibility of a ſolid good accruing to this country from the preſent, or any other commercial treaty, was alſo ſtated with much energy and confidence.

Such were the leading features of the arguments of thoſe who ſupported, and thoſe who oppoſed this important meaſure: but the nation at large confirmed, by its approbation, the conduct of government in this new political arrangement; and thoſe ſanguine and general expectations were formed of benefits reſulting from it, which, we truſt, will not be diſappointed.

After very mature deliberations on this ſubject, both Houſes of Parliament concurred in preſenting the following addreſs to the throne, on Thurſday the 8th of March.

"*Moſt gracious Sovereign,*

"We, your Majeſty's moſt dutiful and loyal ſubjects, the Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons, in this preſent Parliament aſſembled, having taken into our moſt ſerious conſideration the proviſions contained in the treaty of navigation and commerce, concluded between your Majeſty and the Moſt Chriſtian King, beg leave to approach your Majeſty with our ſerious and grateful acknowledgments for this additional proof of your Majeſty's conſtant attention to the welfare and happineſs of your ſubjects. We ſhall proceed, with all proper expedition, on taking ſuch ſteps as may be neceſſary for giving effect to a ſyſtem ſo well calculated to promote a beneficial intercourſe between Great Britain and France, and to give additional permanence to the bleſſings of peace.

1787 "It is our firm perſuaſion that we cannot more effectually conſult the general intereſt of our country, and the glory of your Majeſty's reign, than by concurring in a meaſure which tends to the extenſion of trade, and the encouragement of induſtry and manufacture, the genuine ſources of national wealth, and the ſureſt foundation of the proſperity and happineſs of your Majeſty's dominions," &c. &c.

The conſolidation of the cuſtoms, a ſubject of very great importance to the commerce of this country, had been ſuggeſted to the attention of Parliament in the ſpeech from the throne; and on the 26th of February, the Chancellor of the Exchequer opened this buſineſs to the Houſe of Commons.

The increaſing commerce of the country on the one hand, and the accumulated burthens on the other, the various additions which it had been neceſſary to make to the national income, by augmenting almoſt every ſubſiſting duty, and the concomitant progreſſion of the reſources from whence that income was ſupplied, had ſo widely exceeded the expectations of our anceſtors, and all the grounds of calculation on which they founded their ſyſtem of finance, that the principles which they adopted, as ſuited to the narrow and confined ſcale of their public exigency and reſources, were no longer applicable to the preſent ſtate either of the trade or the revenue of the country. The conſequences of thus retaining the old principle under the altered circumſtances of the country, were, in ſeveral points of view, highly detrimental to the intereſts of the nation. In the firſt, and moſt material inſtance, they were productive of great inconvenience to individuals, as well to the merchants as to the officers of the cuſtoms, from the difficulty they occaſioned in calculating and aſcertaining the amount of the ſeveral ſums to be paid by the former; and they were alſo, in ſome degree, attended with an actual loſs to the revenue.

The firſt inſtitution of the preſent ſubſiſting duties of cuſtom, was made by a ſtatute of the 12th of Charles II. under the names of the tonnage and poundage: the firſt of thoſe was an impoſition on wines, laid on by the quantities imported; and the other was a proportional duty, calculated by value on all other articles. This laſt duty of poundage, was of a nature liable to great inaccuracy and irregularity; the value of the goods was aſcertained by a book of rates, and computed on the quantities of the goods, either with reſpect to gage, to weight, or to *taille*: it was not a real value which was fixed upon them, ſo that the duty ſhould bear a certain proportion to that real value, but an arbitrary value, perhaps, according to their actual ſtandard at the time of impoſing the duty; yet which muſt, from the natural fluctuations of trade and manufactures, be neceſſarily liable to many changes and alterations. The conſequence of ſuch a mode of taxation, when it was laid on by bulk, was, that in goods of one general deſcription, the duty was always the ſame, whether upon the finer or the coarſer manufacture; by which means it either operated as a prohibition to the latter, or was not at all felt by the former. There was, beſides, another mode by which duties were impoſed, and this by a proportion to the value on goods not rated, being the real and actual value of the goods as ſworn to by the importer. This principle of taxation, when once adopted, was purſued in every freſh ſubſidy which had been granted for the payment of the intereſt of the ſeveral loans which were raiſed from time to time. In ſome inſtances it had operated by impoſing additional duties, calculated by a per centage on the duties at preſent paid; in others, it laid a further duty on a different denomination of the commodity, either with reſpect to its value, its bulk, its weight, or its number; and proceeding gradually in this manner, from period to period, it had, at length, by the numerous additions ſo made, and the unbounded increaſe

A. D. 1787 increaſe of the articles of commerce, produced that maſs of confuſion which was, at this time, a ſubject of ſuch univerſal complaint,—as productive of an infinity of inconvenience and delay whom it was the intereſt of the country to have as free as poſſible from all embarraſſment,—the mercantile part of the nation.

In examining the nature and extent of thoſe inconveniencies which aroſe from hence to the merchants, it appeared, that almoſt all the additional ſubſidies had been appropriated to ſome ſpecific fund, for the payment of certain ſpecific annuities, and that there muſt, therefore, be a ſeparate calculation made at the cuſtom-houſe for each of the different ſubſidies; and that, from the great complexity of the whole ſyſtem, ſcarcely any one merchant could be acquainted, by any calculations of his own, with the exact amount of what he was to pay. It was, at the firſt view, perhaps, a ground for aſtoniſhment, that conſequences ſeriouſly bad had not as yet reſulted from this evil; but there were two cauſes by which that circumſtance might be accounted for. The firſt was, that ſome perſons, employed in the cuſtom-houſe, whoſe whole time was dedicated to the buſineſs, and who of courſe were more converſant with it than any merchant could be ſuppoſed to be, had, for the eaſe and convenience of the traders and merchants, arranged a general view of the cuſtoms, in the form of a book of rates, which was, to a certain degree, found to be uſeful: but the utility ariſing from ſuch a compilation, could not be of any long ſtanding, when it was conſidered that there was, every ſeſſion of Parliament, ſome alteration or another made in ſeveral of the duties, and each of thoſe alterations, following the old principle, totally unhinged and overturned the uſe of every preceding printed calculation. But even if this diſadvantage did not attend the cuſtom-houſe officers book of rates, it yet tended only to relieve, in a very inconſiderable degree, the grievance complained of; for though the calculations contained in the book might have been never ſo accurate, nevertheleſs the merchant could not go to the cuſtom-houſe and enter his goods immediately, by paying down the ſum ſtated in the book of rates, but muſt wait, as if ſuch book never exiſted, until all the uſual calculations on each ſubſidy had been made,—the ſeveral acts by which ſuch ſubſidies had been granted having ſo directed: and thus, in point of time, nothing was ſaved by the merchant. The other cauſe, by which the inconvenience was in ſome degree obviated, was one, to which, for many good reaſons, as ſpeedy a concluſion ſhould be made as poſſible. The officers of the cuſtoms having, from conſtant practice and experience, acquired a greater facility in making the neceſſary calculations than the merchant could be ſuppoſed to have done, were the only perſons to whom the merchant could apply for aſſiſtance and direction. Thus the merchant was not only in a great degree left at the mercy of the officers, but the officers themſelves, who were intended to be a check upon the merchants, were forced to become their agents: a proceeding repugnant to every principle of reaſon and policy. Nor were theſe abuſes confined to the cuſtoms, they exiſted alſo, though not to the ſame extent, in the exciſe, and, in a certain degree, in another great branch of the revenue, the ſtamps.

The mode, therefore, by which it was now propoſed to remedy this great abuſe was, by aboliſhing all the duties which now ſubſiſted in this confuſed and complex manner, and to ſubſtitute in their ſtead one ſingle duty on each article, amounting as nearly as poſſible to the aggregate of all the various ſubſidies already paid; only in general where a fraction was found in any of the ſums, to charge the fraction for the neareſt integral number, uſually taking the higher, rather than the lower. To this riſe in the duties there could be no objection, as it would annihilate all the confuſion conſequent on fractions; for although the advance from fractions to the integer, would produce an increaſe in the revenue to the amount of 20,000l.

1787 per annum, ſuch an additional burthen would be moſt amply compenſated by the great relief which the merchant would experience from the whole of the plan. Beſides, there would ſtill be ſome diminution of revenue in certain branches of it, where it might be found expedient to ſubſtitute the lower for the higher integral numbers, inſtead of the fraction.

The plan not only regarded the convenience of the merchant and the officers of the cuſtom-houſe, but alſo greatly promoted the revenue itſelf, by freeing it from the clogs and fetters with which it was loaded, and changing the obſcurity under which it now laboured, to forms ſo clear and diſtinct, that no miſtake or error could poſſibly take place in any future inquiries which might be made upon the ſubject.

It may not alſo be improper to mention, that many of the ſubſidies which it was propoſed to aboliſh, were particularly appropriated to the payment of certain ſpecified annuitants, and as ſome of the annuitants were entitled to a valuable priority of payment, it was doubted whether ſuch right of priority might not be infringed, by aboliſhing thoſe funds from which ſuch prior payments were to iſſue, and conſolidating them all into one general maſs. But this valuable priority was guarded from all danger, as the plan would leave it at the option of all perſons enjoying ſuch right of priority to continue in poſſeſſion of it, or relinquiſh it as they might think proper.

This priority of payment aroſe from the terms of the ſeveral loans, by which certain funds were raiſed for the payment of the intereſt of ſuch loans, and the ſurpluſſes of thoſe funds to go to the aggregate fund, out of which aggregate fund other annuities were to be paid. The right of priority, therefore, might as well be maintained by paying them all out of one general fund, as by paying, firſt, one ſet of annuitants out of ſeveral funds, and the remaining annuitants out of the ſurpluſſes of thoſe funds; provided that, out of that general fund, the firſt payments are actually made to thoſe annuitants entitled to that priority. By ſuch an arrangement, no injury could poſſibly ariſe to the public credit, and no real benefit reſulted to thoſe who enjoyed the right of prior payment, the reſources of the country being equally bound for the payment of the whole, and the payments already made to the annuitants were not paid out of the reſpective funds appropriated to the different annuities, but the whole of that buſineſs is conducted at the Bank, nearly in the ſame manner as it would be when the whole of the revenue was conſolidated into one general fund.

The ſtate certainly has a right, conſiſtent with its good faith to its creditors, to make ſuch alterations in the nature of its ſecurities, as it ſhould ſee to be convenient and neceſſary; provided that, in every ſuch alteration, it takes care to ſubſtitute ſuch a ſecurity, which ſhould be ſubſtantially equivalent to that which was ſo changed. There could, therefore, be no objection, on the ground of public faith, to the ſyſtem which was now propoſed, as not only all the funds then conſolidated were to become chargeable with the public debt, but that every other reſource of the country, of every deſcription whatever, ſhould be collateral ſecurity for the payment of thoſe debts;—even the aids of the current year. But notwithſtanding the undoubted right of the legiſlature to change the mode of its own ſecurities, it certainly ought not to be done, if it could be poſſibly avoided, without the conſent of the ſeveral creditors, which, indeed, it has been the conſtant practice of Parliament to take, whenever it proceeded upon any ſuch meaſure. In the preſent caſe, the conſent was to be taken by allowing a proper time for the public creditors to make their objections, and, if in that time none were made, to conſtrue their ſilence into acquieſcence. As to the funds, it did not appear that any of them could poſſibly be affected in any diſadvantageous manner, by the new modification. Such appear to have

A. D. 1787 have been the grounds on which the Chancellor of the Exchequer made a motion for a preliminary reſolution to the following purport:—That all duties of cuſtoms, exciſe, and certain duties of ſtamps, do ceaſe and determine, and that other duties be ſubſtituted in their ſtead. In the motion were included certain ſpecific exceptions, as the duties on malt, mum, cyder, perry, &c.

The introduction of this meaſure occaſioned no debate. The object was ſo plainly advantageous as to command the concurrence of every deſcription of Members in the Houſe of Commons. The only reſolution in the Committee of the whole Houſe appointed to take into conſideration the conſolidation of the cuſtoms, that occaſioned any debate, was moved by Mr. Pitt on the thirteenth of March, and had for its object the reduction of the duties upon brandies to the rate of five ſhillings per gallon. This, as the Miniſter obſerved, was two ſhillings lower than the ſtandard provided for by the treaty; and he reſted the policy of the meaſure on its tendency to counteract and overthrow the contraband trade. The difference between the quantity of brandy ſmuggled, and that which had been legally imported was prodigious; the former amounting to about 4,000,000 of gallons, while the latter did not exceed 6 or 700,000. If, indeed, the whole of the intended reduction of duty were to operate as an uncompenſated reduction upon the revenue, the loſs would, indeed, amount to the ſum of 200,000l. per annum: but an increaſed importation of 800,000 gallons, deducted from the 4,000,000, at this time illegally imported, would form a ſufficient compenſation,—and there was every reaſon to expect much more. Samples of the different ſorts of brandy, collected at the places of importation, with an account of their firſt coſt; and theſe ſamples having been expreſsly examined by very principal merchants, it was their opinion that, in almoſt every different ſort, the fair trader, under the propoſed reduction, would be abſolutely able to underſell the ſmuggler. An additional regulation was alſo propoſed to be adopted, which would ſecure a conſiderable part of the neceſſary compenſation, and not leave the whole to an unavoidable riſk; it would alſo operate as an anſwer to another objectionable conſequence, the introducing a more extended uſe of ſpirituous liquors among the common people, and this was—to raiſe the price of licences to the retailers of ſuch liquors. In anſwer to thoſe obſervations it was ſaid, that fatal conſequences would reſult from the propoſed regulation to the importation of rum from the Weſt India Iſlands, and that, according to the unanimous opinion of a large body of planters and merchants, our rums would not be able to ſtand a competition with the brandies, and muſt be totally driven out of the market. It was alſo lamented, that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had not been able to obtain the accounts of the quantity of brandy ſmuggled into this country, before the concluſion of the treaty, as it was ſuggeſted that France would certainly have given an equivalent for the benefit of having her brandies imported into Great Britain at ſo low a duty. This reſolution, however, like all the others in the ſyſtem of conſolidation, was carried without a diviſion.

Mr. Pitt having moved for leave to bring in a bill, purſuant to the reſolutions relative to the French treaty and the conſolidated duties, Sir Grey Cooper objected to the propoſition. He ſaid, that if it had not been for the fortuitous and ſingular circumſtances in the ſame ſeſſion, and almoſt at the ſame time, when a great innovation in the commerce of the kingdom was propoſed, the bill, which had long been in contemplation for ſimplifying the duties of cuſtoms, had been brought forward, there muſt neceſſarily have been a ſeparate and diſtinct bill for rendering effectual the tariff of the French treaty: for this and other reaſons, he ſuggeſted an amendment to Mr. Pitt's motion, which was to inſert the words, "a bill or bills," and a motion

1787 tion was made to that effect. The Miniſter argued the impracticability of complying with the motion, ſince, if the plans were introduced ſeparately, one of two things muſt take place;—either the treaty muſt have the priority, and, in that caſe, there muſt be a conſiderable reduction in the duties on French commodities, duties already appropriated to particular funds for paying the intereſt of the public debt, without the introduction of an equivalent, and, of conſequence, the funds muſt be diminiſhed; or, on the other hand, the plan of conſolidation muſt be firſt carried into execution, and the duties on French commodities muſt neceſſarily be regulated before the neceſſity of ſuch regulations had been recognized by Parliament. The propoſed amendment was loſt on a diviſion.

Another point was ſtrongly and repeatedly urged by Sir Grey Cooper, though it was not ſo generally eſpouſed: this was the conſideration, that though the committee for forming theſe reſolutions had received no inſtruction but the general one, for conſidering ſo much of the King's ſpeech as related to the ſimplifying the public accounts, yet, in reality, they had impoſed new taxes by more than 100 reſolutions upon timber for ſhip-building, deals, battens and ſtaves; and they had even been made the vehicle for reducing the duty on Portugal wine. He therefore moved, that the reſolutions be recommitted, and that ſuitable inſtructions be given to the committee for their adoption. The Chancellor of the Exchequer aſſerted, that it was abſurd to imagine, that the reſolution which had led to the forming of the committee, had intended nothing more than a ſimplification of the cuſtoms, by advancing the amount of the ſeveral duties, in which there appeared fractional numbers, ſince this alone, inſtead of ſimplifying, would have proved the means of additional confuſion in the tranſactions of the revenue. This motion was alſo negatived.

In one of the later ſtages of the bill, the queſtion was taken up reſpecting the duty on French lawns: when it was aſſerted, that foreign thread and bone lace might be imported on a duty of 17s. 7d. per dozen yards, which, on laces of 2d. or 3d. a yard, (the only thread laces imported in any quantity) was equivalent to a prohibition; conſequently no duty on them was collected, and the whole was ſmuggled. As to the valuable thread laces, ſuch as point, &c. the ſame duty erred on the other ſide, being totally diſproportionate to the value. With reſpect to foreign ſilk laces, they were abſolutely prohibited, and could not be imported from any nation whatever. Theſe ſilk laces, it was ſaid, made ſeven-tenths, at leaſt, of the conſumption of the Britiſh dominions in that article to the amount of 300,000l. per annum, and that the duty loſt to our revenue, was given to the French ſmugglers. To theſe objections the Miniſter replied, that he was thoroughly grounded in his opinion, that the principle of the tax on lace, was different from that which had been voted upon cambric; for, in fact, this laſt was calculated upon the price and not upon the value, exactly in the ſame manner as the tax upon French lace.—He admitted that the difference between the value of the ſeveral ſorts of laces was greater than that between the various ſorts of cambrics, ſo that the proportion of duty paid by the higher priced laces, was lower in compariſon with that paid by the inferior kinds, than the ſame proportion in the article of cambrics; but ſtill it was evident, that the principle of both the taxes was the ſame, and it had been a practice, followed in many taxes, to impoſe them on the quantity inſtead of the value of the article. Whether the tax upon lace was or was not impoſed in the moſt prudent and politic mode, was a ſubject for ſeparate diſcuſſion. The aſſertion, that French lace ſtill continued to be prohibited, was a miſtake in point of fact; for it was provided for in the treaty, that all articles not enumerated in the tariff ſhould be imported from France into this country, as from the moſt favoured nation. The conſequence of which was, that

1787 lace, not being included in the tariff, was no longer ſubject to the prohibition. Theſe obſervations could only apply to thread lace, for as to ſilk lace, every ſort and deſcription of it ſtill continued actually and expreſsly prohibited by the treaty. But if it ſhould be found expedient at any future period, there was not any thing in the treaty which could, in any degree, prevent their being admitted hereafter under any duty which might be thought adviſeable.

The conſolidation act did not paſs the Houſe of Lords without exciting ſome oppoſition, but it was not ſufficient to prevent its finally reaching the throne.

The laws of impriſonment for debt have long been acknowledged to be a diſgrace to the legiſlative code of this country. As it very ſeldom happens, that an error which has crept into any government, is immediately remedied,—the introduction of a permanent improvement in our laws upon this ſubject has long been procraſtinated, and reſort has been had to various expedients for diminiſhing the preſent evil. One of theſe expedients has been what are called Acts of Grace, originating in the clemency of the ſovereign on his acceſſion to the throne;—a ſecond expedient has been what is denominated the Lords Act, which is a kind of perpetual law, provided for the compounding the affairs of debtors whoſe debts do not exceed 200l.: a farther expedient is, that of Acts of Inſolvency, which have been uſually paſſed at periods of various diſtance, when the priſons of the kingdom have been ſo full, as to be ſuppoſed to render them abſolutely neceſſary.

The laſt inſolvent act was occaſioned by the riots in 1780, and in ſeveral ſucceſſive years attempts have been made, but in vain, to clear the priſons by the ſame means. In this year a bill of a ſimilar nature was introduced into Parliament, paſſed the Houſe of Commons, and was read a ſecond time in the Houſe of Lords on the 22d of May. The Duke of Norfolk ſtated, on the occaſion, that there were above 3,000 debtors confined in the different priſons of the kingdom, the loſs of whoſe labour was a material injury to the public. The object of the bill, his Grace added, was to ſet the unfortunate, and not the fraudulent, debtors at liberty; the bill, therefore, contained ſeveral reſtraining clauſes for the prevention of fraud and impoſition; but if any further reſtraints ſhould be thought neceſſary, they might be added, and the bill thereby ſo modified as to anſwer theſe purpoſes which were the real object of it.

Lord Rawdon urged in favour of the bill, that originally ſo much attention had been given to the uſefulneſs of each individual to his family and the public, that whenever his property was ſeized, his utenſils of agriculture were deemed unattachable. The proceeding by diſtraint was the firſt proceſs, and that was multiplied till all the property of the debtor was ſeized.—Afterwards, the apprehending the perſon of the debtor, in order to oblige him to give an account of his effects, was added; but it was not till the time of Charles the Second that, in conſequence of the alteration of tenures, the preſent mode of retaining the debtor in priſon for a long and uncertain period, at the ſole mercy of his creditor, was added.

The Lord Chancellor Thurlow, by whoſe interpoſition the bill had been rejected in ſeveral preceding inſtances, delivered his ſentiments in a very full and explicit manner, and as it is an opinion proceeding from ſuch high authority, we ſhall give the ſubſtance of it.

His lordſhip entered at large into the argument of the inexpediency of acts of inſolvency, as well as the manifeſt injuſtice of breaking in upon that power of coercion of payment, with which the law of this country had armed the creditor for the ſecurity of his property. The general idea, that humanity required the intervention of the legiſlature between the debtor and the creditor, was a falſe notion, founded in error, and dangerous in practice. He who had frequent opportunities of knowing and witneſſing the temper of creditors, ſeldom found cauſe

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1787 of complaint on the ground of their ſeverity; but, on the contrary, the lenity and kindneſs of the collective body of creditors who daily came before him, were uniformly great, warm, and abundant. In aid of his own obſervation, he mentioned a great law authority for declaring, that for every twenty debtors there ſcarcely appeared in the courts of law one cruel creditor.—It had been ſaid, that the laws reſpecting debtor and creditor, in meſne proceſs, and in execution, ſtood in need of reviſion, with a view to alteration and amendment,—and there was ſome foundation for the aſſertion, and he ſhould be willing to pay every poſſible attention in his power to the conſideration of ſo weighty and important a ſubject; but, in the mean time, he earneſtly reprobated ſuch breaches of faith with creditors as occaſional bills of inſolvency. With regard to the argument, that there were 3,000 debtors in different gaols, the number of actual priſoners on meſne proceſs, or in execution, was one thing; the number of priſoners, including their families and attendants, was another; and the number of priſoners on the ſpeculation of an inſolvent bill, was a third. A much greater evil than the loſs of liberty, was the diſſipation and corruption that prevailed in all our priſons, and to that object it would be much better to direct the ſpirit of reformation, than to defrauding the creditor of his chance of recovering his property by letting looſe his debtor, and taking from him the hopes of payment.

The Lord Chancellor made the diſtinction between debtors in reſpect to trade, and debtors of another deſcription. He ſpoke of the ancient notion under which a tradeſman, who could not pay his debts, was puniſhable; afterwards, as the principles of trade became better underſtood, more enlarged ideas prevailed, and the bankrupt laws were inſtituted for the relief of thoſe traders who had, through unforeſeen misfortunes, incurred debts to a greater amount than their capitals and the ſums owing to them would ſatisfy. Theſe laws had ever been a generous proviſion, as well as a wiſe protection, for caſes of that deſcription. On the other hand, thoſe who ran in debt, knowing that they never ſhould be able to pay, were certainly fit ſubjects of that ſeverity which the law, as it ſtood, empowered their creditors to exerciſe towards them. The preſent bill made no ſort of diſtinction between the two deſcriptions, but provided equally for the liberation of all debtors of almoſt every deſcription; and conſequently, being indiſcriminate in its object, could not poſſibly be juſt. He ſtated the hiſtory of the Lords act, ſhewing, that it went on the principle of the *Ceſſio Bonorum* in uſe in Scotland, and he drew an argument from thence againſt the propoſed bill of inſolvency. He proceeded alſo to ſtate ſome ideas which he had formed on the alterations that might be deſirable in the laws of impriſonment in this country, and which had ariſen from communications he had received on the ſubject from Mr. Howard, ſo well known for the new path of humanity in which he has trod. His lordſhip ſtated, with much approbation, that part of the Scotch law which puniſhed with more than ordinary ſeverity, thoſe who were concerned in adviſing a tradeſman to fraudulent bankruptcy, and aiding and aſſiſting him in ſuch an illegal act. Such were the opinions of the learned Lord on the occaſion, which not only prevailed to the throwing out the bill in queſtion, but will, in all probability, prevent any meaſure of a ſimilar nature from ſucceeding at any future period.

With reſpect to the affairs of the Eaſt India Company, little was done in the courſe of the preſent year. A petition was preſented to the Houſe of Commons on the firſt of February from the Britiſh inhabitants of Fort William in Bengal, complaining of the oppreſſive nature of Mr. Pitt's Eaſt India bill of 1784, and praying that certain clauſes of that bill might be repealed. This petition appears to have been a partial buſineſs, and had been ſigned by the far greater part of thoſe whoſe names were annexed to it, from entreaty and miſrepreſentation; nay,

A. D. 1787 nay, it was poſitively aſſerted in the debate on the ſubject, that out of 800 perſons ſigning the petition, there were 700 ſoldiers with arms in their hands. Counſel, however, were admitted on the part of the petitioners; but Mr. Dempſter having thought proper to poſtpone his motion for leave to bring in a bill to explain and amend the India bills of 1784 and 1786,—on a motion from Mr. Pitt the committee for hearing the Bengal petition was diſſolved. On the nineteenth of March, Mr. Dempſter brought forward his motions, but without ſucceſs,—they were negatived by very great majorities.

In the parliamentary ſeſſions of this year, the charges againſt Mr. Haſtings were renewed. The charge againſt that gentleman, on the ground of the Rohilla war, received a negative by a conſiderable majority,—but an almoſt equal majority confirmed that which reſpected his expulſion of the Rajah of Benares. In a regular courſe of proceeding, the ſeveral charges reſpecting the Nabob of Farruckabad—the contracts—Fizulla Khan—the preſents—the revenues and miſdemeanors in Oude were voted. On the 25th of April, it was reported from the committee to whom it had been referred to prepare the articles of impeachment, that they had compleated ſeveral of them; on the ninth of May this report was taken into conſideration, and on the day following it was voted that Mr. Haſtings be impeached, and Mr. Edmund Burke was directed to impeach him at the bar of the Houſe of Lords, which he immediately did with the uſual ceremony. On the thirtieth of May, the King put an end to the ſeſſion of Parliament by a ſpeech from the throne. He applauded the aſſiduity of Parliament, and thanked them for their proofs of affection for him, his family and government. He ſpoke of the general tranquillity of Europe, and lamented the diſſenſions which unhappily prevailed among the States of the United Provinces. He reflected with peculiar pleaſure on the meaſures they had taken, with regard to the reduction of the national debt, the treaty of commerce with the moſt Chriſtian King, and the ſimplifying the accounts in the various branches of the revenue.

The following Convention between his Britannic Majeſty and the Moſt Chriſtian King, was ſigned at Verſailles the 15th of January in this year.

" In conformity to the 6th and 43d articles of the treaty of Navigation and Commerce, ſigned at Verſailles the 26th of September, 1786, in order to explain and ſettle certain points which had been reſerved.

" Article I. Their Majeſties having ſtipulated, in the 6th article of the ſaid treaty, " That the duties on hardware, cutlery, cabinet ware and turnery, and on all other works, both heavy and light, of iron, ſteel, copper, and braſs, ſhall be claſſed; and that the higheſt duty ſhall not exceed ten per cent. *ad valorem*," it is agreed, that cabinet ware and turnery, and every thing that is included under thoſe denominations, as alſo muſical inſtruments, ſhall pay ten per cent. *ad valorem*.

" All articles made of iron or ſteel, pure or mixed, or worked or mounted with other ſubſtances, not exceeding in value ſixty livres tournois, or fifty ſhillings per quintal, ſhall pay only five per cent. *ad valorem*; and all other wares, as buttons, buckles, knives, ſciſſars, and all the different articles included under the deſcription of hardware and cutlery, as alſo all other works of iron, ſteel, copper and braſs, pure or mixed, or worked or mounted with other ſubſtances, ſhall pay ten per cent. *ad valorem*.

" If either of the two ſovereigns ſhould think proper to admit the ſaid articles, or only ſome of them, from any other nation, by reaſon of their utility, at a lower duty, the ſubjects of the

other

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1787 other ſovereign ſhall be allowed to participate in ſuch diminution, in order that no foreign nation may enjoy in this reſpect any preference to their diſadvantage.

“ The works of iron, ſteel, copper and braſs above-mentioned, are not to be underſtood to extend to bar iron or pig iron, or in general to any kind of iron, ſteel, copper or braſs in the ſtate of the raw material.

“ II. Their Majeſties having alſo ſtipulated, in the ſixth article, “ That for the better ſecuring the due collection of the duties payable *ad valorem*, which are ſpecified in the tariff, they will concert with each other the form of the declarations to be made, and the proper means of preventing fraud with reſpect to the real value of the goods and merchandizes,” it is agreed that each declaration ſhall be given in writing, ſigned by the merchant, owner, or factor, who anſwers for the merchandizes at their entry; which declaration ſhall contain an exact liſt of the ſaid merchandizes, and of their packages, of the marks, numbers and cyphers, and of the contents of each bale or caſe, and ſhall certify that they are of the growth, produce, or manufacture of the kingdom from whence they are imported, and ſhall alſo expreſs the true and real value of the ſaid merchandizes, in order that the duties may be paid in conſequence thereof. That the officers of the cuſtom-houſe, where the declaration may be made, ſhall be at liberty to make ſuch examination as they ſhall think proper of the ſaid merchandizes, upon their being landed, not only for the purpoſe of verifying the facts alledged in the ſaid declaration, that the merchandizes are of the produce of the country therein-mentioned, and that the ſtatement of their value and quantity is exact, but alſo for that of preventing the clandeſtine introduction of other merchandizes in the ſame bales or caſes: provided nevertheleſs, that ſuch examinations ſhall be made with every poſſible attention to the convenience of the traders, and to the preſervation of the ſaid merchandizes.

“ In caſe the officers of the cuſtoms ſhould not be ſatisfied with the valuation made of the merchandizes in the ſaid declaration, they ſhall be at liberty, with the conſent of the principal officers of the cuſtoms at the port, or of ſuch other officer as ſhall be appointed for that purpoſe, to take the ſaid merchandizes according to the valuation made by the declaration, allowing to the merchant or owner an overplus of ten per cent. and refunding to him the duties he may have paid for the ſaid merchandizes. In which caſe, the whole amount ſhall be paid without delay, by the cuſtom-houſe of the port, if the value of the effects in queſtion ſhall not exceed 480 livres tournois, or 20l. ſterling; and within fifteen days, at lateſt, if their value ſhall exceed that ſum.

“ And if doubts ſhould happen to ariſe, either reſpecting the value of the ſaid merchandizes, or the country of which they are the produce, the officers of the cuſtoms at the port ſhall come to a determination thereupon, with all poſſible diſpatch, and no greater ſpace of time ſhall be employed for that purpoſe, in any caſe, than eight days, in the ports where the officers who have the principal direction of the cuſtoms reſide, and fifteen days in any other port whatſoever.

“ It is ſuppoſed and underſtood, that the merchandizes admitted by the preſent treaty, ſhall be reſpectively of the growth, produce, or manufacture of the dominions of the two ſovereigns in Europe.

“ To oblige the traders to be accurate in the declarations required by the preſent article, as alſo to prevent any doubt that might ariſe on that part of the tenth article of the ſaid treaty, which provides, that if any of the effects are omitted in the declaration delivered by the maſter of the ſhip, they ſhall not be liable to confiſcation, unleſs there be a manifeſt appearance of fraud;

A. D. 1787 fraud; it is underſtood, that in ſuch caſe, the ſaid effects ſhall be confiſcated, unleſs ſatisfactory proof be given to the officers of the cuſtoms that there was not any intention of fraud.

" III. In order to prevent the introduction of callicoes manufactured in the Eaſt Indies, or in other countries, as if they had been manufactured in the reſpective dominions of the two ſovereigns in Europe, it is agreed, that the callicoes manufactured in the ſaid dominions, for exportation from one country to the other reſpectively, ſhall have at the two ends of each piece a particular mark, woven in the piece, to be ſettled in concert by the two governments; of which mark the reſpective governments ſhall give nine months previous notice to the manufacturers; and the ſaid mark ſhall be altered from time to time, as the caſe may require. It is further agreed, that until the ſaid precaution can be put in execution, the ſaid callicoes mutually exported, ſhall be accompanied by a certificate of the officers of the cuſtoms, or of ſuch other officer as ſhall be appointed for that purpoſe, declaring that they were fabricated in the country from whence they were exported, and alſo that they are furniſhed with the marks already preſcribed in the reſpective countries, to diſtinguiſh ſuch callicoes from thoſe which come from other countries.

" IV. In ſettling the duties upon cambricks and lawns, it is underſtood that the breadth ſhould not exceed, for the cambricks, ſeven-eighths of a yard, Engliſh meaſure, (about three-quarters of an ell of France) and for the lawns, one yard and a quarter, Engliſh meaſure (one ell of France); and if any ſhall hereafter be made of a greater breadth than what is above mentioned, they ſhall pay a duty of ten per cent *ad valorem*.

" V. It is alſo agreed, that the ſtipulations in the eighteenth article of the treaty, ſhall not be conſtrued to derogate from the privileges, regulations, and uſages already eſtabliſhed in the cities or ports of the reſpective dominions of the two ſovereigns: and further, that the twenty-fifth article of the ſaid treaty ſhall be conſtrued to relate only to ſhips ſuſpected of carrying, in time of war, to the enemies of either of the high contracting parties, any prohibited articles, denominated contraband: and the ſaid article is not to hinder the examinations of the officers of the cuſtoms, for the purpoſe of preventing illicit trade in the reſpective dominions.

" VI. Their Majeſties having ſtipulated, by the forty-third article of the ſaid treaty, that the nature and extent of the functions of the conſuls ſhould be determined, " and that a convention relative to this point, ſhould be concluded immediately after the ſignature of the preſent treaty, of which it ſhould be deemed to conſtitute a part," it is agreed, that the ſaid ulterior convention ſhall be ſettled within the ſpace of two months; and that, in the mean time, the conſuls-general, conſuls, and vice-conſuls, ſhall conform to the uſages which are now obſerved relative to the conſulſhip, in the reſpective dominions of the two ſovereigns; and that they ſhall enjoy all the privileges, rights, and immunities belonging to their office, and and which are allowed to the conſuls-general, conſuls, and vice-conſuls of the moſt favoured nation.

" VII. It ſhall be lawful for the ſubjects of his Britannic Majeſty to proſecute their debtors in France, for the recovery of debts contracted in the dominions of his ſaid Majeſty, or elſewhere in Europe, and there to bring actions againſt them, in conformity to the practice of law in uſe in the kingdom: provided that there ſhall be the like uſage in favour of French ſubjects in the European dominions of his Britannic Majeſty." &c. &c.

Difficulties having ariſen in the Eaſt Indies relative to the meaning and extent of the thirteenth article of the treaty of peace, ſigned at Verſailles, September 3, 1783; their Britannic and Moſt Chriſtian Majeſties, with a view to remove every cauſe of diſpute between their reſpective

1787 ſpective ſubjects in that part of the world, thought proper to make the following Convention, which was ſigned at Verſailles, Auguſt 31, 1787 :—

" Article I. His Britannic Majeſty again engages, " to take ſuch meaſures as ſhall be in " his power, for ſecuring to the ſubjects of France a ſafe, free, and independent trade, ſuch " as was carried on by the French Eaſt India Company," and as it is explained in the following articles, " whether they exerciſe it individually, or as a company ;" as well in the Nabobſhip of Arcot, and the countries of Madura and Tanjore, as in the provinces of Bengal, Bahar, and Orixa, in the northern Circars, and in general in all the Britiſh poſſeſſions on the coaſts of Orixa, Coromandel, and Malabar.

" II. In order to prevent all abuſes in the importation of ſalt, it is agreed, that the French ſhall not import annually into Bengal more than two hundred thouſand maunds of ſalt: the ſaid ſalt ſhall be delivered at a place of depoſit appointed for that purpoſe by the government of Bengal, and to officers of the ſaid government, at the fixed price of one hundred and twenty rupees for every hundred maunds.

" III. There ſhall be delivered annually for the French commerce, upon the demand of the French agent in Bengal, eighteen thouſand maunds of ſaltpetre, and three hundred cheſts of opium, at the price eſtabliſhed before the late war.

" IV. The ancient factories, namely, Chandernagore, Coſſimbuzar, Decca, Jugdea, Balaſore, and Patna, with the territories belonging to the ſaid factories, ſhall be under the protection of the French flag, and ſubject to the French juriſdiction.

" V. France ſhall alſo have poſſeſſion of the ancient houſes of Soopore, Keerpoy, Cannicole, Mohumpore, Serampore, and Chittagong; as well as the dependencies on Soopore, viz. Gantjurat, Alſende, Chintzabad, Patorcha, Monepore, and Dolobody ; and ſhall further have the faculty of eſtabliſhing new houſes of commerce ; but none of the ſaid houſes ſhall have any juriſdiction, or any exemption from the ordinary juſtice of the country exerciſed over Britiſh ſubjects.

" VI. His Britannic Majeſty engages to take meaſures to ſecure to French ſubjects, without the limits of the ancient factories above-mentioned, an exact and impartial adminiſtration of juſtice in all matters concerning their perſons or properties, or the carrying on their trade, in the ſame manner, and as effectually, as to his own ſubjects.

" VII. All Europeans, as well as natives, againſt whom judicial proceedings ſhall be inſtituted, within the limits of the ancient factories above-mentioned, for offences committed, or debts contracted, within the ſaid limits, and who ſhall take refuge out of the ſame, ſhall be delivered up to the chiefs of the ſaid factories; and all Europeans, or others whatſoever, againſt whom judicial proceedings ſhall be inſtituted, within the ſaid limits, and who ſhall take refuge within the ſame, ſhall be delivered up by the chiefs of the ſaid factories, upon demand being made of them by the governor of the country.

" VIII. All the ſubjects of either nations reſpectively, who ſhall take refuge within the factories of the other, ſhall be delivered up on each ſide, upon demand being made of them.

" IX. The factory of Yanam, with its dependencies, having, in purſuance of the ſaid treaty of peace, been delivered up by Mr. William Hamilton, on the part of his Britannic Majeſty, to Mr. Peter Paul Martin, on the part of his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, the reſtitution thereof is confirmed by the preſent convention, in the terms of the inſtrument bearing date the ſeventh of March, 1785, and ſigned by Meſſ. Hamilton and Martin, &c. &c."

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Copy of the French King's Arret, dated the 6th of May, reſpecting the Entry of Engliſh Merchandize.

" The King having fixed the 10th of this month for the execution of the Treaty of Commerce concluded with the King of Great Britain, his Majeſty, in order to facilitate the execution of this treaty, and the connection of commerce which will reſult between the two nations, has determined to open particular offices, for the entry of gauzes, callicoes, linen, and cotton cloths, and other merchandizes, which coming from the manufactories of England and other parts, are to be admitted to the benefit of the treaty, leaving the forming offices open, which anciently ſubſiſted, for the entry of merchandize of the ſame ſpecies, which are brought from other countries, and which are to remain ſubjected to the higheſt duties. His Majeſty has judged it equally proper, to fix, as nearly as poſſible, the duty by weight on all merchandize of an equal valuation, to prevent the arbitrary eſtimation of their value; and, in ſhort, to fix to the ſaid Engliſh ſtuffs and merchandize a particular mark, to avoid all confuſion between the ſaid merchandizes, and thoſe which may be brought into the kingdom to defraud the revenue, as well as thoſe which may be ſeized and confiſcated, or thoſe which, being foreign cloths, are yet ſubject to the right of circulation, after having paid the rights of entry into the kingdom. To provide for all which, the King, being in his Council, hath ordained, and doth ordain as follows:

" Article I. The goods and merchandize of Great Britain, which are permitted to be introduced by the treaty of commerce, concluded between his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty and the King of Great Britain, are to be admitted, on the 10th of this month, to enter into this kingdom by the way or offices of Calais, Boulogne, Havre, Rouen, St. Malo, Nantes, Rochelle, Bourdeaux, and Cette, at the riſk of their proprietors or repreſentatives, juſtifying by certificates of the judges or officers of the cuſtoms, that the ſaid goods or merchandize are the growth or fabric of England; and alſo, that by the letters or charter-parties, they are really imported from one of the ports of Great Britain. The certificates which are delivered to prove the origin of the cotton manufactured in England, are to mention the marks affixed to the ſame, to prevent their being confounded with thoſe fabricated in the Eaſt Indies, or in other foreign parts.

" II. The duties ſhall be paid according to the tariff annexed to this arret, for the cloaths, ſtuffs, and hoſiery of wool or cotton; and they ſhall be liquidated and received after the rate of the known and true value which other merchandizes may pay, whoſe valuation, either in weight or by piece, is not yet determined; the whole conformable to the 6th article of the treaty of commerce, and to the 1ſt article of the convention of the 15th of January laſt.

" III. The declaration of merchandizes which are to be rated, muſt be made in writing, and ſigned by the captains of the ſhips, commiſſioners, or merchants; who are to mention the quantity, quality, and value of the different ſpecies of merchandize that is contained in each bale, cheſt, or caſk. And in caſes where the officers judge that the declarations are under the value of the merchandize, they may detain the ſame, on paying to the proprietor the price of the ſaid merchandize, agreeable to the value which he has declared, and a tenth upward, conformable to the 2d article of the convention, dated 15th January laſt.

" IV. The liſt of merchandizes which are fixed to pay by weight, according to the quantity of each of their ſpecies, by the treaty of commerce, by the convention of the 15th of January laſt, or by the tariff annexed to the preſent arret, muſt ſpecify their different qualities, and mention their weight; and in caſes where they do not ſpecify the different ſorts of merchandize

1787 dize ſubjected to different duties, and contained in the ſame cheſts, bales, or caſks, the duty ſhall be paid for all at the higheſt rate that any ſuch part of the ſaid merchandize ſhall be found ſubject to.

" V. The cloths or ſtuffs of woollen or cotton, the cloths of hemp or flax, and the gauzes made of ſilk, are to receive on each piece, at one of the firſt offices deſcribed in the 1ſt article of this arret, or at the cuſtom-houſe of Paris, a leaden mark, bearing on one ſide theſe words, " ſtuffs or foreign cloths," and on the other ſide, the name of the town where the mark ſhall have been fixed.

" VI. The merchandizes, which in particular circumſtances have not received the marks above-mentioned, muſt be ſent to the firſt office on the frontier, under the great ſeal of the farmers, to be properly cleared.

" VII. The cloths and ſtuffs of wool and cotton, which are not proved to be of the eſtabliſhed manufactories in the ſtates of his Britannic Majeſty in Europe, are to continue ſubject to the ſame duties as fixed by the arret of the 3d of July 1762, for the woollen manufactories; by thoſe of the 2d of May, 1773, for the cotton manufactories; by thoſe of the 28th of October, 1781, for the hoſiery manufactories; and to continue to ſubmit to the payment of ten ſous per livre on the ſaid articles, and are only to be permitted to enter by the way of Calais, or St. Valery, conformable to the ſaid arrets.

" VIII. The ſtuffs and hoſiery of woollen, the velvets and ſtuffs of cotton, and the gauzes which do not bear the marks of the national fabric, or of thoſe preſcribed in the 5th article of this arret; or by the ancient arrets and regulations for foreign merchandize, are to be accounted prohibited, and as ſuch are to be ſeized by the Farmers General, who are to proceed to confiſcation of them in the uſual manner.

" (Signed),

" LE COMTE DE MONTMORIN."

TARIFF of the Duties to be paid conformable to the firſt Article of the above Arret, on the Merchandizes hereafter named, in execution of the Treaty of Commerce concluded between France and England.

DENOMINATIONS.	*Valuation.*	*Impoſitions agreed upon by the Treaty.*	*Quota of the Duty.*	*Additional Duty on the Cottons, Iron and Beer.*	*Total of the Duty to be paid per Quintal.*
Cotton Stuffs.	*Livres.*		*Livres*	*Livres.*	*Livres.*
Muſlinets, —	2000	12 per cent.	240	30	270
Fine white cloth, —	1500		180	30	210
Dimities, ſattinet, velveret ſtriped or ribbed, dimities knit ribbed,	1000		120	30	150
Woollen Stuffs.					
Kerſimere, or ſhalloon,	2000		240	Nothing.	240
Serge of ſattin, or ſattin turk, *ſagatis ecrue*, ſtriped flannels,	1350		162	Nothing.	162
Tammies, or coarſe ſtuffs, everlaſtings, flannels, plain worſted ſtockings, and merchandize of the ſame nature, —	800		96	Nothing.	96

N. B. Goods at per Quintal.

Particulars

A. D. 1787

Particulars of the TARIFF or Rates of the Stamp Duty in France.

ADMIRALTY.

	Price of Stamps.
For all orders and permiſſions granted by the Lord High Admiral, or his officers, and other matters concerning his juriſdiction; excepting ſuch as are expedited *gratis*, and theſe only extending to all poſt-regulations and the unballaſting of ſhips,	1 livre.
For every bill of lading,	5 ſous.
For every ſtatement of the crews delivered in by the commiſſioners,	10 ditto.

POLICE.

Safe-conducts, each	12 livres.
Letters of ſtate, reſpites, and ſuperſedings for debtors, each	10 ditto.
For paſſports granted to leave the kingdom, each	24 ditto.

LAW.

For every brief, conſultation, and other printed papers, referring to actions at law, or to any object whatever, as well as for the proofs thereunto annexed, for each printed ſheet of four pages in quarto,	1 liard, (farthing).
For the ſame in folio,	2 ditto.
Petitions and memorials addreſſed to the Council, &c. according to the ſize of the paper.	

TRADE.

For each and every bill of exchange, draft, or reſcription, both to order and at a date; alſo drafts on bankers, even ſuch as come from abroad, up to two thouſand livres,	15 ſous.
If exceeding the aforeſaid ſum, to any amount,	30 ditto.
For every receipt in full for any ſum above twenty-four livres, without exception of any perſon,	5 ditto.
For goods ſold by auction above the aforeſaid ſum up to 1000 livres,	10 ditto.
From one to two thouſand,	1 livre.
From two to four,	2 ditto.
And from four to any ſum,	3 ditto.
N. B. The creditor to bear the expence of the ſtamps.	
For all private ſignature leaſe indentures, contracts, bargains, navy, and other inſurance bills of lading by land or water, accounts kept by merchants, change brokers, accounts of interchange of goods, balances ſtruck and ſettled with bankers, bills of ſhipping either directly or by commiſſion, accounts of guardianſhip, whether brought in by private perſons, corporations, or other collective bodies, certificates, bills delivered by tradeſmen, artificers and others; and finally, all written private acts, be the perſons who they may, without exception, for every ſheet, half-ſheet, quarter-ſheet, never exceeding the dimenſions now in uſe,	5 ſous.
For each certifying ticket to be left at the turnpikes,	2 ditto.
For every acknowledgment, receipt, or diſcharge from the *mont de pieté*, or public pawn,	5 ditto.

The

A. D. 1787 The following is an accurate account of Britiſh and Iriſh manufactures and produce, entered outward at the port of London for France, for one week preceding the 25th of Auguſt:

Thirty-two pieces of fine broad cloth, 35 ditto of ſecond cloth, 1650 ditto of worſted ſtuffs, 1400 yards of flannel, 280 double pieces of baize, 1837 ſingle pieces of baize, 400 dozen of worſted hoſe, 400 pair of blankets, 10 pieces of kerſeymere, 150 tons weight of haberdaſhery, 127 pounds weight of manufactured ſilk in gauze, 4 pounds weight of ſilk, inckle and gauze, 173 pieces of Britiſh linen, 100 pounds weight of wrought leather, 54 tons 1 cwt. of wrought iron, 11 tons 11 cwt. of wrought copper and plate, 50 ditto of pewter, 200 ounces of wrought ſilver plate, 226,000 pieces of glaſs and earthen ware, 20 tons of ſtrong beer, 200 cwt of refined ſugar, 16 coaches and chariots, 40 tons of Britiſh train oil, 5 tons of hops, 60 cwt. of allum, 88 tons of lead, and 5 cwt. of litharge of lead: with bath coating, blanketing, rugs, Iriſh linens, thread and cotton hoſe, worſted waiſtcoat and breeches pieces, Mancheſter cottons, velverets and muſlins, millinery, ſadlery, ſtationary, upholſtery, houſhold furniture, turnery, tin ware, muſical and mathematical inſtruments; the value of which goods being eſtimated at about 24,000l.

As it may with propriety be objected to the foregoing ſtatement, that although goods to the above amount have been entered for exportation to France, yet merchants frequently enter larger quantities than are actually ſhipped, and a deduction ought therefore to be made from what appears on the entry: we will readily admit the fact, and deduct on that account one-third, which will certainly amount to more than what is termed the ſhort ſhipping; this will reduce the value of the merchandize really exported to 16,000l.

An account of the French manufactures and produce imported at the port of London during the ſame period.

Twenty-one tons 58 gallons of wine, 9025 gallons of brandy, 410 pieces of cambrics, 261 kid-ſkins, dreſſed, 1666 pieces of glaſs, 285 pounds of verdigreaſe, 4 gallons 1 quart of cordial water, 6 cwt. 1 qr. 15lb. of hard ſoap, 4 marble figures, 1 clock, 3 glaſs ſhades, 30 pieces of earthen ware, 1 violin, 1 chip hat, 5 whiſtles, 2 caps, 22lbs. of bound books; with cock-tail feathers, artificial flowers, minerals, and hoſiery; the whole amounting to about 3000l.

Which eſtimate leaves a balance of trade in favour of Great Britain of 13,000l.

The following ſtatement of the competition at this time exiſting between the calico and muſlin manufactures of Great Britain, and thoſe of the Eaſt India Company, will afford a very ſatisfactory inſight into the trade of thoſe important articles.

The facilities which the manufacturers of Great Britain had ſuddenly acquired, and the immenſe capitals which they have ſo recently laid out in expenſive machinery, and great and heavy eſtabliſhments for carrying on the cotton trade, are unparalleled in the annals of the world. One hundred and forty-three cotton mills are now built and in progreſs in Great Britain, of which nearly two-thirds have been erected within theſe five years. Beſides theſe, there are above 20500 hand-mills or jennies for ſpinning the ſhute for the twiſted yarn ſpun by the water mills.

Above a million of money was, within this time, ſunk in mills, hand engines, and other machines, including the grounds and neceſſary buildings.

	£.	s.	d.
Expence of water mills,	715,000	0	0
Ditto of hand jennies, houſes, buildings, and auxiliary machinery, ſuppoſed at leaſt,	285.000	0	0
Total,	1,000,000	0	0

A power is alſo created of working nearly two million of ſpindles; and men, women, and children are trained and training to this buſineſs, capable of carrying the cotton manufacture almoſt to any extent. The power of ſpindles now capable of being worked is eſtimated as follows:

In the water-mills, — — — —	286,000
In the jennies, — — — — —	1,665,100
Total ſpindles,	1,951,100

In the branches applicable to muſlin and calico, it is calculated that employment is given to 100,000 men and women, and at leaſt 60,000 children; many of the latter having been taken from different pariſhes and hoſpitals in Great Britain.

The quantity of the raw material of cotton wool conſumed in this manufacture, which did not amount to 6,000,000lb. in 1781, and was only about 11,000,000lb. four years ago, now extends to the enormous height of 22,000,000lb. and upwards; and the aſtoniſhing rapidity of this increaſe, is in ſome meaſure to be attributed to the extenſion of theſe branches to the goods of India, particularly the calicoes and muſlins.

Britiſh calicoes were firſt made in Lancaſhire about the year 1772, but the progreſs was ſlow till within theſe laſt ten years: the quantity manufactured has ſince extended from about 50,000 to 1,000,000 of pieces now made in the courſe of a ſingle year.

Britiſh muſlins were not ſucceſsfully introduced until the year 1781, and were carried to no great extent until 1785, ſince which period the progreſs has been rapid beyond all example. The acquiſition of cotton wool, of a ſuperior quality, from Demerara and the Brazils, and the improvements made in the ſpinning fine yarns upon the mule jennies, have given a ſpring to this branch of the cotton manufactory, which has extended it beyond what it was poſſible to have conceived. Above half a million pieces of muſlin of different kinds, including ſhawls and handkerchiefs, are now ſuppoſed to be annually made in Great Britain, and the quantity not only increaſes daily with the new acceſſion of powers that are burſting forth upon the country, but the quality is exceedingly improved; and ſince a yearly ſupply of about 300 bales of Eaſt India cotton has been obtained by the way of Oſtend, yarns have been ſpun, and muſlins have been wove, equal to any from India; ſo that nothing is wanting but a fine raw material to enable the Britiſh manufacturer to carry this branch to the greateſt extent; and, of all others, it is that ſpecies of cotton goods which deſerves moſt to be encouraged, becauſe of the immenſe return it makes for labour more than any other branch of the cotton manufactory. Eaſt India cotton wool has been ſpun into one pound of yarn worth five guineas, and when wove into muſlin, and afterwards ornamented by children in the tambour, has extended to the value of fifteen pounds; yielding a return of 5,900 per cent. on the raw material.

Such is the ſtate of the Britiſh cotton manufactory at this period. With eſtabliſhments and mechanical powers capable of bringing forward immenſe quantities of goods into the conſumption, this manufacture is choaked, as it were, in a moment, by a great and ſudden reduction of the prices of Eaſt India goods of the ſame ſpecies, which have been recently ſold above 20 per cent. on an average, under the loweſt prices at which the Britiſh manufacturer can afford to ſell without loſs. The quantity ſold at the India Houſe in this year, exceeds the average of the preceding ſeven years, no leſs than 324,852 pieces. The total quantity ſold

in

1787 in 1773 by the Eaſt India Company, extended only to 791,646 pieces of calicoes, muſlins and nankeens.

Such a conduct in the Company muſt operate to the very great prejudice of the Britiſh manufactures, and will continue to do ſo while they preſs goods upon the market at prices which have no relation to the original coſt, and under circumſtances where the juſt laws of competition cannot operate, and where every idea of protecting duties is annihilated in the effect of the general ſyſtem. It appears therefore, unleſs ſome relief is given, perhaps little ſhort of one-half of the preſent mechanical powers now in action muſt ceaſe working;—about 70 water mills, worth at leaſt 350,000l.; 10,000 jennies, worth 70,000l.; and buildings eſtimated at 180,000l.; the whole value of which, at leaſt 500,000l. would be loſt and become uſeleſs.—The revenue ariſing from the operation of ſo great a ſyſtem, muſt ceaſe alſo to be productive; a valuable branch of trade, acquired at ſo much expence and induſtry, muſt be loſt to the country; the conſumption of the raw material muſt rapidly diminiſh, to the great injury of the Weſt India iſlands, and the returns from the labour of the people, to an immenſe extent in the very productive article of muſlins, muſt be annihilated.

The ſtate of the raw materials, and the progreſſive and aſtoniſhing increaſe of this manufacture, will be beſt explained by what follows:

	Cotton Wool uſed in the Manufacture. *Pounds Weight.*	*Suppoſed Value when manufactured.* £.
1781,	5,101,920	2,000,000
1782,	11,206,810	3,900,000
1783,	9,546,179	3,200,000
1784,	11,280,238	3,950,000
1785,	17,992,888	6,000,000
1786,	19,151,867	6,500,000
1787,	22,600,000	7,500,000

The following is a correct liſt of ſhipping which arrived at Liſbon during the preſent year:

Engliſh,	332	Imperial,	5
French,	128	Malteſe,	6
Dutch,	72	Neapolitan,	2
Swedes,	69	Hamburghers,	1
Danes,	54	Tuſcan,	1
Americans,	33	Bremen,	1
Spaniards,	23	Dantzic,	1
Raguſians,	14	Portugueſe,	300
Venetians,	6		

The following is a copy of the port entries at Malaga, from the 1ſt of January, to the 31ſt of December, 1787, of merchant ſhips of different nations.

Spaniſh,	1469	Portugueſe,	5
French,	99	Imperial,	28
Swediſh,	76	From Raguſa,	42
Daniſh,	54	—— Jeruſalem,	1
Dutch,	24	Britiſh,	187
Venetian,	16		

The difference between this and the year 1786, is a decreaſe of 197 large ſhips, and between 1786 and 1785, 112 veſſels; the Britiſh entries alone have encreaſed nine.

A. D. 1787 It appears from the St. Peterſburgh liſt of goods exported in this year, that there have been 394 Britiſh ſhips, the cargoes of which conſiſted of 1,586,088 pods, or 25,176 tons, of iron; 1,050,222 pods of hemp; 359,303 pods of flax, and 1,352,925 pieces of deal.

Of the above number there were 121 ſhips ſailed for the port of London, for Hull 63, Liverpool 26, Briſtol 12, Newcaſtle 6, Whitehaven 3, Cheſter 2, Lancaſter 2, Leith 33, Dundee 16, Grangemouth 13, Borrowſtowneſs 3, Arbroath 3, Aberdeen 3, Greenock 13, Glaſgow 1, Dublin 11, Cork 6, Newry 5, and Londonderry 3.

Import of iron, hemp and flax to the following places:

	Iron Pods.	*Hemp Pods.*	*Flax Pods.*
Liverpool	54,906	78,215	26,183
Newcaſtle,	13,411	34,890	4,719
Whitehaven,	8,694	17,456	3,281
Cheſter,	4,292	4,583	4,704
Lancaſter,	1,892	16,988	1,261
Kirkham,	3.754	2,330	9,160

The following is communicated to us as an authentic eſtimate of the French Levant trade at this period.

	Livres.
Merchandize exported to Conſtantinople, calculated at	4,000,000
——— Salonica,	2,300,000
——— Morea,	250,000
——— Candia,	250,000
——— Smyrna,	6,000,000
——— Syria,	5,000,000
——— Egypt,	3,000,000
——— Barbary,	1,500,000
Total,	22,300,000
To which is to be added for caravans,	150,000
For ſmuggled goods, at leaſt,	1,550,000
Making the whole exportation,	24,000,000
Merchandize imported from Conſtantinople, calculated at	1,000,000
——— Salonica,	3,500,000
——— Morea,	1,000,000
——— Candia,	1,000,000
——— Smyrna,	8,000,000
——— Syria,	6,000,000
——— Egypt,	3,500,000
——— Barbary,	2,000,000
Making the whole importation	26,000,000

The number of veſſels which have been employed in the whale fiſhery to Davis's Streights and the Greenland Seas, in the preſent year, amounted to 217, and their cargoes conſiſted of 8,884 tons, 1 cwt. 19 lbs. clean oil; 7,874 tons, 1 cwt. 27 lbs. whale fins; and 26,830 ſeal ſkins.

It is remarkable, that though the bounty was reduced this year from 40s. to 30s. per ton, there ſhould be ſo great an encreaſe in the ſhips employed in this fiſhery.

A. D. 1787 An Account of Oil, Whale Fins, and Seals Skins, diſtinguiſhing each, which were imported from the Southern Whale Fiſhery to England, during the Years 1785, 1786, and 1787, diſtinguiſhing each Year.

	OIL.			WHALE FINS.			SEAL SKINS.
Years.	*Tuns.*	*H.*	*G.*	*Cw.*	*qrs.*	*lbs.*	*Number.*
1785,	626	3	41	37	1	11	—
1786,	1,113	0	7	357	2	0	772
1787,	2,181	3	25	1,389	2	10	14,280

There were not any of the above-mentioned articles imported into Scotland from the Southern Whale Fiſhery during the three years.

An Eſtimate of the Value of Woollens exported for every Year, from the beginning of 1781 to the end of the Year 1787.

Years.	*England.*			*Scotland.*			*Great Britain.*		
	£.	*s.*	*d.*	£.	*s.*	*d.*	£.	*s.*	*d.*
1781,	2,803,757	2	10	41,507	10	4	2,845,264	13	2
1782,	3,003,415	14	11	49,368	3	5	3,052,783	18	4
1783,	3,391,224	6	7	68,828	13	3	3,460,052	19	10
1784,	3,316,360	0	6	79,557	10	0	3,395,917	10	6
1785,	3,825,943	0	10	66,376	2	5	3,892,319	3	3
1786,	3,429,805	9	7	83,041	12	3	3,512,847	1	10
1787,	3,610,770	12	8	77,024	19	6	3,687,795	12	2

An Eſtimate of the Groſs Receipt in Money and Bonds, the neat Produce, and Payments into the Exchequer, of the Revenue of Cuſtoms in England, for two years, up to the 5th of January, 1788.

Years.	*Groſs Receipt.*			*Neat Produce.*			*Payments.*		
	£.	*s.*	*d.*	£.	*s.*	*d.*	£.	*s.*	*d.*
1786,	7,589,817	5	6	5,434,597	8	7	3,985,732	15	10
1787,	6,511,245	0	0	2,808,211	0	0	3,578,350	10	2¾

In our general hiſtory of the Commerce of this country, there are ſome of its branches, which, from their importance and extent, deſerve more than common attention: of theſe, our EAST and WEST INDIA TRADES are by far the moſt eminent; not only by being of themſelves immediate ſources of national wealth and grandeur, but from furniſhing materials for various others; ſo that they may be juſtly accounted the two great pillars of our ſtupendous commercial fabric: for if we conſider them with reſpect to number of ſhipping, quantity of tonnage, the vaſt bodies of ſeamen continually employed, and the value and variety of the commodities exported and imported, every other branch of foreign trade ſinks to nothing in the compariſon. It cannot, therefore, but be ſatisfactory to have a clear inſight into theſe trades, and to examine them ſomewhat minutely. For this purpoſe we have ſelected the following ſtatements of exports and imports, &c. which, on account of their being extracted from official papers, have at leaſt authenticity to recommend them.

STATE OF THE WEST INDIA TRADE.

An Account of the Number of Ships and other Veſſels, with their Tonnage, cleared Outwards from the different Ports of South Britain for the Weſt Indies; with thoſe entered Inwards from the ſame Colonies, from Chriſtmas 1786, to Chriſtmas 1787.

	OUTWARDS.		*INWARDS.*	
PORTS.	*Ships.*	*Tons.*	*Ships.*	*Tons.*
Briſtol,	73	16,913	71	16,209
Berwick,	—	—	1	127
Chepſtow,	1	132	—	—
Cowes,	2	483	—	—
Hull,	2	333	1	203
Lancaſter,	37	5,665	33	4,943
Liverpool,	87	17,463	143	27,578
Newcaſtle,	9	2,157	1	114
Penzance,	1	120	1	164
Plymouth,	4	737	—	—
Poole,	1	226	—	—
Southampton,	1	177	—	—
Swanſea,	3	579	—	—
Whitehaven,	12	2,232	3	444
Total of the Out-ports,	233	47,257	254	49,782
London,	218	61,695	252	70,418
Total,	451	108,952	506	120,200

An Account of the Number of Ships and other Veſſels, with their Tonnage, cleared Outwards from the different Ports of North Britain; with thoſe entered Inwards from the ſame Colonies, from Chriſtmas 1786, to Chriſtmas 1787.

	OUTWARDS.		*INWARDS.*	
	Ships.	*Tons.*	*Ships.*	*Tons.*
Aberdeen,	1	110	1	105
Air,	3	259	—	—
Dumfries,	—	—	1	150
Dundee,	1	93	1	93
Inverneſs,	1	105	—	—
Leith,	3	872	1	351
Port Glaſgow,	19	3,414	23	3,587
—— Greenock	48	9,624	41	7,486
Stranraer,	1	152	1	152
Wigtown,	—	—	1	98
Totals,	77	14,629	70	12,022

1787 An Account of the Number of Ships and other Veſſels entered Inwards, and cleared Outwards, in the Britiſh Sugar Colonies, to and from the ſeveral Ports in the Britiſh Colonies in North America, and the United States of America, from Michaelmas 1786, to Michaelmas 1787, with their reſpective Tonnage.

INWARDS.

British Colonies in North America.				States of America.		
Ships.	*Tons.*	*Men.*		*Ships.*	*Tons.*	*Men.*
719	50,263	4,454	—	509	35,546	3,096

OUTWARDS.

Ships.	*Tons.*	*Men.*		*Ships.*	*Tons.*	*Men.*
255	16,152	1,410	—	373	36,145	2,852

An Account of the Imports and Exports of Rum and Sugar into and from Great Britain, for the Year, ending Chriſtmas, 1787, with the Duties and Exciſe, as well as the Drawbacks paid thereon.

IMPORTED.

RUM.				SUGAR.					
Quantity.	*Duty of Cuſtoms.*			*Quantity.*			*Duty of Cuſtoms.*		
Gallons.	*£.*	*s.*	*d.*	*Cwt.*	*qrs.*	*lb.*	*£.*	*s.*	*d.*
2,253,657	46,943	10	—	1,926,741	3	—	1,187,814	12	2

EXPORTED.

RUM.				SUGAR.					
Quantity.	*Drawback of Cuſtoms.*			*Quantity.*			*Drawback of Cuſtoms.*		
Gallons.	*£.*	*s.*	*d.*	*Cwt.*	*qrs.*	*lb.*	*£.*	*s.*	*d.*
864,313	17,899	4	2	199,398	—	16	122,957	1	9

An Account of the Quantities of Sugar, Rum, Cotton, Coffee, Cocoa, Indigo, Ginger, Aloes, and other Goods, imported into the ſeveral Ports of Great Britain, from the Britiſh Sugar Colonies, from Chriſtmas 1786, to Chriſtmas 1787, incluſive, with Duties of Cuſtoms, payable on each Article,

Species of Goods.		*Value.*			*Species of Goods.*		*Value.*		
		£.	*s.*	*d.*			*£.*	*s.*	*d.*
Drugs.	Aloes Epatica,	344	18	9	Dye Stuffs & Hard Wood	Fuſtic,	37,333	6	0
	Caſſia Lignea,	1	7	0		Indigo,	2,634	1	7
	Radix Serpentaria,	12	15	0		Lignum vitæ,	2,497	9	0
	Sarſaparilla,	101	17	6		Logwood,	81,225	3	6
	Other Drugs,	7,365	16	9		Mahogany,	57,786	16	3
Dye Stuffs & Hard Wood.	Archelia,	8	17	2	Grocery.	Cocoa, -	9,884	13	7
	Braziletto,	1,378	13	3		Coffee, -	212,277	9	3
	Ebony,	3,504	18	3		Ginger, -	11,448	16	3

Grocery.

A. D.
1787

Species of Goods.	*Value.* £.	*s.*	*d.*	*Species of Goods.*	*Value.* £.	*s.*	*d.*
Grocery. Pimento, -	15,211	9	0	Spirits, Rum -	203,822	9	10
Sugar, Brown	2,634,686	1	6	Tobacco, -	550	10	1
Turmeric, -	170	4	0	Tortoiſeſhell, -	1,293	6	0
Hides, Ox or Cow, -	2,003	15	0	Wool, Cotton -	327,600	8	9
Lemons and Oranges, -	2	3	11				
				Total value of actual produce,	£.3,613,147	7	2

The preceding articles are all the actual produce of the Britiſh Weſt Indies, but thoſe which follow in this account, are either not the produce of the Weſt Indies, or are doubtful.

Species of Goods.	*Value.* £.	*s.*	*d.*	*Species of Goods.*	*Value.* £.	*s.*	*d.*
Books, Bound - -	56	19	11	Potatoes, -	0	10	0
Unbound, -	1	5	10	Proviſions, Bread & Biſcuit,	28	2	0
Bottles, Glaſs -	26	12	1	Rags, - -	197	6	7
Corn, Wheat, Flour -	0	8	9	Seeds, Garden -	4	2	6
Drugs, Cortex Peruv. -	1	2	6	Skins, Calf, Raw -	28	6	8
Oil, Palm -	164	18	2	Deer, in the Hair,	69	12	6
Dye Stuffs & HardWood. } Annotto,	3	0	0	Goat, Raw -	147	15	0
Camwood,	119	17	9	Otter, -	22	2	4
Nicaragua,	13,167	3	5	Turpentine, -	77	13	9
Redwood,	167	5	4	Wax, Bees -	250	0	0
Saunders Red,	13	2	6	Whale Fins, -	148	10	0
Shumack,	26	0	0	Wines, French, -	1	1	5
Elephants' Teeth, -	381	12	5	Madeira, -	6,544	11	2
Feathers for Beds, -	1	0	0	Port, -	259	12	4
Grocery, Rice -	2,928	7	3	Spaniſh, -	56	4	5
Hides, Indian in the Hair,	2	14	0	Wood, Cedar, -	1,762	10	8
Iron, Bar -	19	10	0	Pine Boards and Planks,	3	6	8
Caſt -	478	10	7	Staves, Barrel	472	17	8
Linen, Sail Cloth, -	4	4	4	Staves, Hhd. and Pipe,	3,070	13	11
Sails, foreign made	16	3	0	Other Wood,	3,725	13	6
Oil, Train -	8	14	4	Miſcellaneous Articles,	4,635	12	11
Pictures, -	11	10	0				
				Total value of doubtful produce,	39,106	8	2
				Total value of actual produce,	3,613,147	7	2
				Total value of imports,	3,652,253	15	4

An

A. D.
1787 An Accountof the Value and Amount of Goods (being Britiſh Produce and Manufacture) for Exportation to the Britiſh Sugar Colonies, from the ſeveral Ports in Great Britain, from Chriſtmas 1786, to Chriſtmas 1787, incluſive.

Species of Goods.	*Value.* £.	s.	d.
Allum, -	1	11	10
Apothecary's Ware,	4,738	11	0
Apparel Garments,	3,670	8	0
Beer, - -	11,179	3	0
Books, printed -	434	5	8
Braſs, wrought -	13,681	6	2
Brick, - -	1,141	2	1
Cabinet Ware & Upholſtery,	3,226	14	0
Candles, tallow -	32,058	2	5
wax -	319	0	0
Cards, new, wool -	68	8	0
playing -	55	2	5
Cattle, live cows and oxen,	37	10	0
Horſes, -	1,597	10	0
Mules, -	1,450	0	0
Chariots and coaches,	545	0	0
Coals, great -	29	18	9
Winton meaſure	9,246	13	2
Colours for painters,	4,017	15	0
Copper, wrought	30,610	6	10
Cordage, new -	2,880	10	0
Old -	8,933	10	2
Corn, Barley -	227	19	4
Ditto, hulled	374	5	7
Beans, -	6,728	6	1
Oats, -	6,093	13	9
Oatmeal, -	1,054	0	9
Peas, -	2,303	19	0
Rye, -	264	15	7
Wheat, -	693	4	6
Ditto, flour	19,020	14	7
Cottons and Linens. Checked,	6,303	19	0
Printed for Bounty,	5,101	10	0
Ditto, not Bounty,	32,497	18	0
6d. to 18d. before printed	59,875	0	0
6d. to 18d. before dyed -	3,212	0	0
Fuſtians,	20,547	2	0
Mancheſter,	31,133	0	0
Stuffs, plain	1,800	0	0
Cyder, - -	663	2	9
Fiſh. Cod, dry -	589	3	0
Herrings, red	7,926	3	9
Ditto, -	46,721	16	0
Salmon, ſalted	754	0	0
Fiſhing tackle, -	15	0	0
Glaſs and earthen ware,	5,626	3	9
Green, -	5,919	3	6
White flint -	426	11	2
For windows,	128	1	3
Gloves, plain leather	485	8	0
Glue, - -	2	17	0
Grindleſtones, -	887	12	6
Gunpowder, -	1,029	0	2
Haberdaſhery, -	16,263	17	11
Hats, beaver -	14,875	13	4
Carolina, -	195	0	0
Felt, -	25,723	13	0
Hoops for barrels,	2,410	15	3
Several ſorts,	3,320	11	0
Iron, caſt -	1,153	19	6
Nails -	4,255	10	7
Wrought, -	152,188	6	9
Lead, and bird ſhot,	4,082	8	5
Red -	20	14	0
White, -	27	12	0
Leather, tanned -	3,622	15	1
Wrought	21,120	10	3
Lime, -	4,385	9	7
Linen, above bounty,	22,320	2	6
2s. 6d. per yard,	16,286	6	3
5½d. ditto, -	1	13	0
6d. to 18d. ditto,	232,829	2	0
Buckrams, 6d. to 18d. ditto, -	87	2	0
checked, 7d. to 18d. ditto, -	86,787	4	0
Ditto, 6½d. ditto	703	18	6
Ditto, 2s. 3d. ditto	32	12	6

Diaper,

A. D.
1787

Species of Goods.	*Value.* £.	*s.*	*d.*	*Species of Goods*	*Value.* £.	*s.*	*d.*
Linen, Diaper, 6d. to 18d. do.				Tin plates	50	0	0
for bounty	1,221	11	0	Tobacco pipes,	257	13	0
Ditto, not for bounty	50	0	0	Toys,	103	0	0
Sheeting, 6d. to 18d.	425	13	0	Vinegar,	295	7	10
Sailcloth, ditto	11,231	12	1	Watches, gold	255	0	0
Iriſh, plain, 6d. to 18d.	31,326	15	0	metal	30	0	0
Diaper, ditto ditto	5	15	0	ſilver	225	0	0
Sheeting, ditto	159	17	0	Woollen Goods. Bays, double	23,250	0	0
Oil, train	1,789	7	5	—— ſingle	1,822	18	6
Pantiles,	296	18	1	Caps, plain, Mon-			
Pewter,	4,586	18	10	mouth	400	0	0
Plate, wrought ſilver	3,081	5	0	—— worſted	67	5	0
Proviſions, Bacon and hams	4,112	5	0	Cloths, long	5,645	17	6
Beef and pork	816	15	0	—— ſhort	10,660	10	0
Tripes	2,084	5	0	—— Spaniſh	860	0	0
Bread and biſcuit	7,039	18	8	Cottons, Kendal	29,161	17	2
Butter,	382	4	0	—— Welſh,			
Cheeſe,	3,159	11	9	plains	197	11	2
Potatoes,	596	1	6	Flannel,	2,749	10	0
Saddles, great	160	5	0	Frize,	291	13	4
Salt, rock	50	0	0	Northern dozens,			
White	1,149	0	1	ſingle	480	0	0
Silk, in pieces	7,925	16	10	Perpets and Serges,	186	17	6
Sewing	2,648	0	9	Stockings, men's			
Gauze,	265	9	4	worſted	945	11	0
Soap, hard,	16,161	12	11	Stuffs,	18,927	0	0
Spirits, Britiſh	300	0	0	—— with ſilk and			
Starch,	1,190	14	2	inckle	470	16	5
Stationary,	2,543	14	0	—— with ſilk and			
Stained paper,	228	5	6	inckle gauze	4	16	9
Steel,	143	18	6	—— with ſilk and			
Stockings, thread	5,742	19	0	grogram	0	16	6
Stones, ſlate	71	14	2	—— with ſilk and			
Sugar, fully refined	12,538	7	3	worſted	189	16	1
Thread	520	11	0	Woollens at value,	2,829	1	10
Tin,	389	4	10	Miſcellaneous articles,	256.103	0	10
				Total,	1,463,879	14	11

An

A. D.
1787 An Account of the Value and Amount of Goods (being Foreign Produce and Manufacture) entered for Exportation to the Britiſh Sugar Colonies, from the ſeveral Ports in Great Britain, from Chriſtmas 1786, to Chriſtmas 1787; diſtinguiſhing ſuch Goods as have been imported by the Eaſt India Company.

Species of Goods.	*Value.* £.	s.	d.
Beads, coral -	1	4	10
Books, bound -	16	0	0
Boxes, pills -	29	6	3
Brimſtone, -	111	1	9
Bugle, great -	43	7	6
Corn. Beans, -	437	8	9
Oats, -	981	8	11
Oatmeal, -	92	15	0
Wheat flour, -	12	1	6
Drugs. Almonds, bitter	4	15	1
Aloes Cicotrina,	2	5	4
—— Epatica,	1	15	3
Antimonium Crudum	0	6	3
Aſſa Fætida, -	5	6	10
Camphire, unrefined	0	10	0
Cantharides, -	199	1	0
Caſſia Lignea, -	186	18	4
Cardamoms, -	0	8	9
Cortex Peruv.	940	2	6
Cream of Tartar,	6	10	4
Gambogium,	0	16	3
Gum Arabic, -	1	10	0
Jallap, -	74	2	11
Iſinglaſs, -	4	0	0
Juniper berries,	13	18	1
Manna, -	88	12	8
Myrrh, -	8	12	9
Oil perfumed,	6	19	6
Opium, -	81	16	3
Quickſilver, -	63	1	6
Radix Ipecacuana,	46	1	3
—— Serpentaria,	16	12	0
Saccarum Saturni,	9	10	4
Sarſaparilla, -	40	14	8
Senna, -	46	7	9
Succus Liquoritiæ,	1	10	0
Drugs at value, -	275	14	9
Dye ſtuffs. Annotto, -	5	16	8
Brazil, -	11	0	3

Species of Goods.	*Value.* £.	s.	d.
Dye Stuffs. Saffron, -	20	8	6
Smalts, -	0	16	8
Feathers for beds, -	28	14	2
Flax, rough -	85	0	0
Fiſh, cod -	55	0	0
Grocery. Almonds, ſweet	45	9	3
Anniſeeds, -	6	18	8
Barley, pearl	24	17	2
Cinnamon,	66	10	0
Cloves, -	62	16	3
Coffee, -	1	10	11
Currants, -	317	0	0
Figs, -	4	3	7
Mace, -	124	18	6
Nutmegs, -	91	1	8
Pimento, -	0	2	4
Prunes, -	50	2	6
Raiſins, Denia	28	11	0
—— Lipra	46	11	8
—— Smyrna	32	16	2
—— Solis	456	14	0
Rice -	429	1	2
Sugar, brown	6	5	11
Turmeric, -	0	1	8
Hats, chip and ſtraw	19	7	6
Incle, wrought -	104	8	0
Iron, bar -	1,888	17	5
Lace, bone - -	2	7	3
Linens. Cambrics	1,997	8	7
Canvaſs, Heſſens	458	17	5
—— ſpruce	1,673	16	11
Damaſk Sileſia napkening	24	0	4
—— ditto tabling	115	0	2
Diaper Sileſia napkening -	129	11	4
Diaper Sileſia tabling	57	15	10
—— Ruſſia narrow under half ell	76	6	9

Linens.

A. D. 1787

Species of Goods.	*Value.* £.	s.	d.
Linens. Germany broad under 36 inches	1,072	18	3
——— narrow	23,754	16	11
——— ditto ſtriped	113	18	6
Holland and Flanders under 1s. 1-8 ell	54	5	4
Iriſh plain 6½d. to 18d. for bounty	12,678	0	0
—— ſheeting, ditto,	73	6	0
——plain, not for bounty	65	12	6
Lawns, Sileſia Holland whited	923	18	0
—— ditto, not Holland whited	2,566	12	0
Ruſſia broad above 22½ -	1,045	3	11
—— above 31½	586	8	9
—— above 36	4,809	14	5
—— drilling	247	15	6
—— narrow	467	3	3
—— ſail cloth	5	13	4
Ticks -	120	1	0
Mats, Ruſſia -	0	12	0
Oil, ordinary -	38	6	3
ſallad -	438	11	0

Species of Goods.	*Value.* £.	s.	d.
Oil, train -	23	18	1
Proviſions. Bacon and hams,	88	18	6
Beef -	16,403	0	0
Bread and biſcuits	26	0	0
Butter	8,106	13	0
Pork -	16,673	18	2
Silk wrought crapes	103	16	0
Spirits, brandy -	766	17	1
Geneva -	825	8	0
Rum -	1,920	0	0
Tallow, -	781	4	7
Thread, ſiſters -	2	12	0
Tobacco, -	961	3	9
Wax, bees -	5	18	3
Water, Pyrmont -	3	3	9
Wines. Canary, -	72	9	5
French	5,834	13	4
Madeira	1,152	1	2
Port -	5,336	9	2
Rheniſh -	190	5	1
Spaniſh -	2,315	19	9
Other wines	23	16	1
Wood. Deals, ordinary	20	9	8
Staves, barrel	54	18	7
Timber, fir -	5	4	0
Total,	123,209	16	2

GOODS IMPORTED *by the* EAST INDIA COMPANY.

Species of Goods.	*Value.* £.	s.	d.
China ware, -	1,646	2	9
Borax refined, -	2	0	0
Rhubarb, -	1,101	12	9
Pepper, -	481	17	4
Sago, — -	125	3	5

Species of Goods.	*Value.* £.	s.	d.
Grocery, tea -	6,338	17	4
Piece goods, Bengal rated	797	16	2
Ditto, unrated -	14369	4	4
Saltpetre, -	57	0	8

	£.	s.	d.
Value of Eaſt India goods, - - - - -	24,919	14	9
Value of Foreign produce, - - - -	123,209	16	2
Total value of Britiſh produce, - - - -	1,463,879	14	11
Total value of goods exported to the Weſt Indies, - -	1,612,009	5	10
Total value of goods imported from the Weſt Indies, -	3,652,253	15	4
Total value of goods exported to the Weſt Indies, -	1,612,009	5	10
Exceſs, - - - - - - -	2,040,244	9	6

STATE OF THE EAST INDIA TRADE.

An Account of the Number and Tonnage of the Ships laden in China for the Eaſt India Company, in the Seaſon 1786-7.

Ships.	*Builders Meaſurement.*	*Chartered Tonnage.*	*Tonnage laden in China.*	*Kintladge laden in England.*	*Total Tons on Board.*
Duke of Montroſe,	762	755	686	92	778
Northumberland,	784	755	741	92	833
Southampton,	758	758	716	92	808
Earl Cornwallis,	774	755	694	92	786
Contractor,	777	758	761	92	853
Stormont,	737	723	678	88	766
Royal Charlotte,	855	758	850	92	942
Neptune,	809	758	772	92	864
Ranger,	537	537	467	66	533
Pitt,	779	755	669	92	761
Bridgewater	799	755	732	92	824
Pigot,	765	758	795	92	887
Chapman,	538	538	576	66	642
Admiral Sir Edward Hughes,	810	——	670	—	670
Lord North	777	758	741	92	833
Carnatic,	779	758	709	92	801
Valentine,	790	755	663	92	755
Vanſittart,	828	758	687	92	779
Sulivan,	876	755	769	92	861
Fort William,	798	755	753	92	845
Ponſborne,	804	758	776	92	868
General Goddard,	799	755	730	92	822
Europa,	772	755	742	92	834
Middleſex,	852	755	735	92	827
Earl of Mansfield,	782	758	743	92	835
York,	867	758	874	92	966
Royal Biſhop,	708	720	724	86	810
Mars,	696	696	659	85	744
London,	836	758	881	92	973
29 ſhips.	22,448	20,615	20,993	2,507	23,500

There were likewiſe 19 ſhips, meaſuring 16,121 tons, builder's meaſurement, conſigned by the Eaſt India Company to China, for the ſeaſon 1788-9.

A. D.
1787 An Account of the Quantity and Sorts of Tea imported in this Year, in the twenty-ſeven Ships which arrived from China.

	Neat lbs.
Bohea,	6,493,816
Congou,	4,266,136
Souchong,	1,113,900
Singlo,	5,355,251
Hyſon,	1,623,572
Total,	18,852,675

An Account of the Amount of the Silver ſent from England to China, in the Eaſt India Company's Ships, for three Years, diſtinguiſhing the Amount in each Year.

Years.	*On Account of the Company.* £.	*Ditto of private Perſons.* £.	*Totals.* £.
1785,	704,259	———	704,259
1786,	694,960	7,223	702,183
1787,	625,384	35,326	660,710
Total amount,	2,024,603	42,549	2,067,152

An account of the quantity of Britiſh Corn exported, and of Foreign Corn imported and exported for the year 1781, as taken from the Cuſtom-houſe books.

	Britiſh, exported.		*Foreign, imported.*			*Foreign, exported.*		
	Qrs.	*Buſh.*	*Qrs.*	*Buſh.*		*Qrs.*	*Buſh.*	
Barley,	19,884	7	17,783	3		1,320	0	
Beans,	10,114	0	36,912	5		893	0	
Oats,	11,151	5	394,185	7		2,112	5	
Oatmeal,	1,107	0	1,793	0		———		
Peas,	6,376	6	2,266	6		318	2	
Rye,	12,683	3	2,702	0		———		
Wheat,	75,360	4	46,973	1		335	1	
			Cwt.	*qrs.*	*lbs.*	*Cwt.*	*qrs.*	*lbs.*
Wheat Flour,	43,946	0	9,741	0	6	381	2	7
Malt,	111,016	0	———			———		

The following are the bills relative to trade and commerce which paſſed during this ſeſſion.

A bill againſt unlawful lotteries.

For eſtabliſhing a conveyance of letters between Milford Haven and Waterford.

To regulate the commercial intercourſe between the Britiſh colonies and United States of America.

To regulate the Britiſh fiſhery.

For repealing the ſeveral duties on cuſtoms and exciſe, and granting other duties in lieu thereof; and for applying the ſaid duties, with the other duties compoſing the public revenue;

for

1787 for permitting the importation of certain goods, wares and merchandize, the produce or manufactory of the European dominions of the French King, into this kingdom.

To perpetuate two acts, 15th and 17th of George III. relative to promiſſory notes and bills of exchange.

For encouraging the arts of deſigning and printing linens, &c. by veſting the property thereof in the deſigners, printers, &c. for a limited time.

To farm the poſt-horſe duties.

For allowing the importation and exportation of certain goods in Jamaica, Grenada, Dominica and New Providence, under certain reſtrictions.

To allow further time for the inrollment of deeds and wills made by Papiſts, &c.

For granting certain duties on glaſs imported, &c.

Reſpecting veſſels and boats liable to ſeizure by an act of the 24th of George III. for preventing ſmuggling, and alſo relative to the duties on wine and oil flaſks, foreign geneva and ebony.

For making an allowance to the dealers in foreign wines, for the ſtock in their poſſeſſion a certain time, &c.

Relative to the importation of raw hides from Ireland and Britiſh America; to the exportation of wheat, &c. to the Britiſh ſugar colonies; to prohibiting the exportation of tools and utenſils in the iron and ſteel manufactories, and to prevent the ſeducing of artificers; and for granting a bounty on the exportation of certain Britiſh and Iriſh linens.

The following are the variations of the public funds during this year, with the higheſt and loweſt prices arranged oppoſite to each month.

	Bank Stock.	3 per cent. reduc	3 per cent. conſol	4 per cent. conſol	5 per cent.	Long Ann.	Short Ann. 1778	India Stock.	India Ann.	India Bonds.	Old Ann.	New Ann. 1777	Navy Bills.	Exchequer Bills.	Lottery Tickets.	
January,	149¾	74⅛	73¼	93⅛	110⅛	22	13⅝	167	70	56	73⅝		2⅛ dif	15	14	16
	152¼	75½	76¼	94⅜	113⅜	22½	13¾	168½	70⅝	40	74⅝			14	15	6
February,	151½	74½	73½	93⅝	110	22⅛	13⅜	163	71	41	73¾	73⅛	2	21	15	4
	153¾	75¾	74⅝	95⅛	111⅝	22⅛	14	163½	67½	75	74¾	73¾	2⅛	16	16	9
March,	153¼	75¼	74½	95½	111½	22¼	14	164	72½	39	74⅜	73⅜	2⅛	14	—	
	156⅛	77¼	76⅜	96⅝	114⅛	23	14⅛	168¾	73¼	54	76¼	75⅝		21		
April,	153¼	76⅜	76¼	97⅛	113⅛	23		169¼	72⅛	38		75¾	2⅛	5	—	
	155⅝	77½	77⅜	98½	115	23⅛	13⅜	170¾	72⅝	60		76⅛		11		
May,	154¼	76⅛	77	95½	115	22⅝	13⅛	170¼	72½	56	75⅜	76⅜	2⅛	6	15	6
	156⅝	77½	77⅝	96½	115½	22⅞	13⅞	172½	73⅛	63	77⅛	77¼		19	16	3
June,	147	72½	73½	91	111	21¼	13	161½	67⅝	55	72¼	73⅛	2⅛	4	15	18
	155¾	76⅜	77⅜	95¾	115¾	22⅝	13⅞	171	72⅝	62	75⅞	76½		16	16	3
July,	145	70⅛	70½	91⅜	108¼	21⅛	13⅛	149½	66½	55	69¾	70¼	2⅛	4	15	16
	150¾	73⅞	74½	93⅝	113¼	22	13½	165⅛	68¾	67	72⅞	70½	2½	22	16	0
Auguſt,	147½	71⅞	70⅜	92½	109¼	21½	13½	159½	68	67	71	70¼	2	22	15	16
	153¾	75⅛	74¼	95½	111½	22¼	14	162	69½	80	73	73⅞	2⅛	34	15	19
Septemb.	145	73¾	67	91	105	21	13½	158¼	68⅞	70	72¼	69	1¾	23	15	11
	152¾	73⅞	73⅝	94⅝	110⅞	22¼	14	164¼	69¾	83	73½	72⅞	2⅛	32	15	16
October,	145½	70¾	69¼	90⅛	105⅛	20⅞	13¼	158¼	65¼	64	69½	69⅜	2⅛	8	15	11
	150		72¾	91¼	108	21⅝		161½	65½	78	70¼	70⅝	3	21	15	18
Novemb.	152½	74⅝	75¼	94⅜	113¾	22⅜	13¾	168¼	70⅞	80	74¼	75⅜	2	21	15	18
	160½	76½	77¼	95⅞	115¼	22⅝	13⅞	174½	71½	91	75¼	75	3	27	16	17
Decemb.	157	75½	76½	95⅛	115	22⅝	13¾	174¾	71¼	76	75⅛	76½	2	22	16	11
	158¾	76¾	77⅜	96¼	115⅞	22⅝	13⅞	177	72¼	88	76		2⅛	31	16	16

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1787. **Supplies** granted by Parliament for this year:—

	£.	s.	d.
For the navy,	2,286,000	0	0
For the army,	1,876,287	6	9
For the ordnance,	328,576	17	3
Miſcellaneous ſervices,	5,723,017	18	3¾
Deficiencies,	1,675,717	15	2⅞
Total Supplies,	11,889,599	17	5⅝

The Ways and Means for raiſing the foregoing Supplies.

	£.	s.	d.
Land tax and duty on malt,	2,750,000	0	0
To be applied out of the ſinking fund,	1,226,072	2	11½
Lottery,	256,875	0	0
Exchequer bills,	5,500,000	0	0
Surplus of the conſolidated fund,	2,400,000	0	0
Impreſt monies remaining in the Exchequer,	74,102	9	10
Army ſavings,	44,806	2	7
Money granted for the army in 1785, remaining in the Exchequer,	180,000	0	0
Total of Ways and Means,	12,431,855	15	4½
Total amount of Supplies granted,	11,889,599	17	5⅝
Exceſs of Ways and Means,	542,255	17	10⅞

An account of the chriſtenings and burials within the bills of mortality in London, for this year.

Chriſtened, males	8,929	Buried, males	9,821
——— females	8,579	——— females	9,528
	17,508		19,349

1788 Before we enter upon the hiſtory of this year, we muſt refer to the cloſe of the preceding one, when in conſequence of a notification from the Court of France, that his Chriſtian Majeſty intended to aſſiſt the States of Holland againſt any invaſion or hoſtile attempts from the King of Pruſſia, an augmentation took place during the laſt ſummer in our navy and army, and ſuch preparations were made as checked the purpoſe of France, and tended greatly to re-eſtabliſh the conſtitutional government of the Dutch Republic.

On the 27th of November, his Majeſty opened the fifth ſeſſion of the preſent Parliament by the following ſpeech from the throne:

"*My Lords and Gentlemen,*

"At the cloſe of the laſt ſeſſion I informed you of the concern with which I obſerved the diſputes unhappily ſubſiſting in the Republic of the United Provinces. Their ſituation ſoon afterwards became more critical and alarming, and the danger which threatened their conſtitution and independence, ſeemed likely, in its conſequence, to affect the ſecurity and intereſts

1788 of my dominions. No endeavours were wanting, on my part, to contribute by my good offices to the reſtoration of tranquillity and the maintenance of the lawful government; and I alſo thought it neceſſary to explain my intention of counteracting all forcible interference on the part of France, in the internal affairs of the Republic. Under theſe circumſtances, the King of Pruſſia having taken meaſures to enforce his demand of ſatisfaction for the inſult offered to the Princeſs of Orange, the party which had uſurped the government of Holland applied to the Moſt Chriſtian King for aſſiſtance, who notified to me his intention of granting their requeſt. In conformity to the principle which I had before explained, I did not heſitate, on receiving this notification, to declare, that I could not remain a quiet ſpectator of the armed interference of France, and I gave immediate orders for augmenting my forces both by ſea and land. In the courſe of theſe tranſactions I alſo thought proper to conclude a treaty with the Landgrave of Heſſe Caſſel, by which I ſecured the aſſiſtance of a conſiderable body of troops in caſe my ſervice ſhould require it. In the mean time, the rapid ſucceſs of the Pruſſian troops under the conduct of the Duke of Brunſwick, while it was the means of obtaining the reparation demanded by the King of Pruſſia, enabled the provinces to deliver themſelves from the oppreſſion under which they laboured, and to re-eſtabliſh their lawful government. All ſubjects of conteſt being thus removed, an amicable explanation took place between me and the Moſt Chriſtian King, and declarations have been exchanged by our reſpective Miniſters, by which we have agreed mutually to diſarm, and to place our naval eſtabliſhments on the ſame footing as in the beginning of the preſent year. It gives me the greateſt ſatisfaction, that the important events which I have communicated to you, have taken place without diſturbing my ſubjects in the enjoyments of the bleſſings of peace; and I have great pleaſure in acquainting you, that I continue to receive from all foreign powers the fulleſt aſſurances of their pacific and friendly diſpoſition towards this country. I muſt, at the ſame time, regret that the tranquillity of one part of Europe is unhappily interrupted by the war which has broken out between Ruſſia and the Porte. A convention has alſo been agreed upon between me and the Moſt Chriſtian King, explanatory of the thirteenth article of the laſt treaty of peace, and calculated to prevent jealouſies and diſputes between our reſpective ſubjects in the Eaſt Indies.—I have ordered copies of the ſeveral treaties to which I have referred, and of the declaration and counter-declaration exchanged at Verſailles, to be laid before you." The ſpeech concluded with a particular mention of the extraordinary expences which the ſituation of affairs rendered neceſſary, and a general alluſion to the flouriſhing ſtate of the commerce and revenues of the country.

The uſual addreſſes were moved in both Houſes, and carried *nemine contradicente.*

On the 29th of November the Chancellor of the Exchequer preſented the following papers to the Houſe by the King's command.

An Account of the Charges incurred by the late Armament, delivered by the Secretary at War.

	£.	s.	d.
Expence of the augmented eſtabliſhment of the foot guards and regiments infantry, between the 24th of September, and 24th of December, 1787, incluſive, — — — — —	40,387	10	8
Ditto of the additional military and hoſpital ſtaff for the Weſt Indies, from the dates of the reſpective appointments during the period before ſpecified, — — — — —	700	4	3
Carried over,	41,087	14	11

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				£.	s.	d.
Brought forward,				41,087	14	11
Levy money for the recruits raiſed by the foot guards beyond their former eſtabliſhment,				735	0	0
Continuation of full pay and allowances to the officers of the eleven companies, from the 9th of November, 1787, to the 24th of December following,	2,195	10	6			
Deduct the ſavings of the half-pay of the ſaid officers, from the 24th of September, to the 24th of December,	2,016	15	1			
Difference,				178	15	5
Expence of extraordinary marches,				700	0	0
Camp equipage and hoſpital bedding,				15,346	8	5
Medicines,				1,830	5	3
Total,				59,878	4	0

An Eſtimate of the Expences incurred by the Augmentation and Equipment of his Majeſty's Naval Forces, ſince the 18th of September laſt, dated from the Navy Office, 27th Nov. 1787.

	£.	s.	d.
Six months freight of 5,023 tons of tranſports,	15,389	18	9
Charge of fitting and ſtores,	1,990	8	3
Freight and wages of 28 tenders	8,594	8	6
Fitting and ſtores,	2,635	10	10
Rigging and ſupplying with ſtores ſix forty gun ſhips,	4,000	0	0
Impreſted to pay bounty to ſeamen,	7,700	0	0
More may be wanted for the like ſervice,	6,000	0	0
Charge of procuring men on ſhore,	4,396	19	7
Amount of advanced price on hemp purchaſed,	10,000	0	0
Loſs on victualling the army tranſports,	5,000	0	0
More for compromiſing bargains for proviſions for the fleet at home and abroad,	20,000	0	0
A computed amount of the general charges, under the heads of wages, wear, tear and victualling,	74,700	0	0
Gratuity to officers and ſeamen who have entered ſince the 18th of September, and are now to be paid off and diſcharged,	15,000	0	0
Total,	175,407	5	11

Expences incurred by the Office of his Majeſty's Ordnance on Account of the late Armament.

REGIMENT OF ARTILLERY.

	£.	s.	d.
Raiſing and arming an augmentation of one bombadier and ten gunners per company, amounting to 440 men, to the royal regiment of artillery, with the pay of the ſame to the 31ſt of December, 1787,	5,193	6	8
Carried over,	5,193	6	8

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	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Brought forward,				5,193	6	8
Arms for the augmentation to forty-nine battalions and four new raiſed regiments of foot, — —	13,295	5	0			
Mem. As it is not neceſſary immediately to replace the above arms, no demand is made on this eſtimate.						
Ammunition and intrenching tools for ſundry regiments of foot ordered on ſervice, — —	442	17	0			
Tents to ſundry regiments ordered on ſervice,	2,663	17	0			
				3,106	14	0
STORES, &c. FOR THE NAVY.						
To replace ordnance ſtores ſupplied to the navy and expences incurred in the ſeveral ports of Great Britain on account of the late armament, computed at about — — — — —				10,000	0	0
Total,				18,300	0	8
Total of army eſtimates, — — —				59,878	4	0
Ditto navy, — — — —				175,407	5	11
Ditto ordnance and ſtores, — — —				18,300	0	8
Total expence of the armament, — — —				253,585	10	7

On the 4th of December, 1787, Mr. Grenville called the attention of Parliament to the ſituation of the trade between the ports of the United States of America, and his Majeſty's ſubjects in the iſland of Newfoundland, in the articles of bread, flour, Indian corn, live ſtock, &c. A ſtatute already exiſted for the regulation of this trade, and the neceſſity of continuing it aroſe from the trade in queſtion having increaſed and proſpered beyond all expectation, to the manifeſt advantage of Newfoundland. When this bill had been originally introduced into the Houſe, its duration had been limited to the period of a ſingle year; and it had been confidently aſſerted at that time, that Newfoundland could not poſſibly exiſt without a free and unreſtrained trade to America; and that in conſequence of the peace the Britiſh fiſhery on the Banks of Newfoundland muſt be totally annihilated; but from the evidence of three years, the reverſe of this prediction had been verified. The Britiſh Newfoundland fiſhery not only exiſted, but proſpered under a politic reſtraint and prudent limitation of its trade; inſomuch, that it never had been ſo flouriſhing as it was at the preſent period. The number of Britiſh ſhips and men employed in this fiſhery had been doubled ſince the termination of the war, and the quantity of fiſh taken had alſo been increaſed in an equal proportion. In fact, the Britiſh fiſhery had increaſed, and ſtill was increaſing in the moſt rapid manner, while that of France had hitherto declined, and ſtill continued to decline in an almoſt proportionable ratio. Not more than 7,000 Britiſh ſeamen had been employed in the year 1785; but, in the year 1787, the number employed was 14,000: whereas the French had employed 7,000 ſeamen in this trade in 1786, and in the year 1787 the number had decreaſed to ſomewhat under 6,000. In 1786, the French took 426,000 quintals of fiſh, and in the year following 128,000 quintals was the full amount of their taking. On the contrary, in the year 1786, the Britiſh fiſhers

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1788 took only 470,000 quintals, but in the ſucceeding year, 732,000. Hence it is evident of how great importance the Newfoundland fiſhery is to this kingdom, as well with regard to the manufacturing intereſts of Great Britain, as to its grand intereſting characteriſtic, that of being a conſtant and eſſential nurſery for Britiſh ſeamen. The exiſting ſtatute, and which was on the point of expiring, had been made to continue for two years, and it was now propoſed to continue it for two years longer. Upon theſe principles, a bill was brought in to confirm, for a certain limited time, the trade between the ports of the United States of America, and his Majeſty's ſubjects in the iſland of Newfoundland, &c.

On the 28th of May, in this year, Mr. Pitt roſe to move for leave to bring in a bill relative to that part of the Newfoundland fiſhery, which, by the laſt treaty of peace with France, was ceded to that nation, obſerving, that he would not detain the Houſe long, nor go into the diſcuſſion of the ſubject at large, but reſerve a more extended inveſtigation for a ſubſequent ſtage of the buſineſs, when the Houſe ſhould have the bill before them. He would only, therefore, for the preſent, take a general view of the ſubject. He reminded the Houſe of the ſituation in which the fiſheries of Newfoundland had been placed, in reſpect to us and the French, by the treaty of Utrecht, and in what meaſure that ſituation was varied by the laſt treaty of peace. A declaration upon this ſubject had been ſince ſigned and exchanged by the two Courts, in which there was no ſtrict engagement with the Court of France, that ſhe ſhould enjoy an excluſive right to the whole of the fiſhery in the places therein ſpecified (from Cape Bonaviſta to Cape St. John, and thence to Cape Raye) but only a ſtipulation to prevent the Britiſh ſubjects from moleſting them. He explained his conſtruction of theſe ſtipulations, and dwelt upon the diſtinction between that ſort of concurrence which moleſted, or tended to moleſt, and that which did not. He ſaid, his opinion was for acting under a liberal conſtruction of that declaration, in proof of our good faith, and ſincere deſire to preſerve the full extent of the meaning of the article that referred to the fifth article of the definitive treaty.—Mr. Pitt ſtated the policy of England's keeping as ſeparate as poſſible the fiſheries of the two countries, ſince an intermixture might create jealouſy, and make the French acquainted with our mode of curing the fiſh, and alſo thoſe particulars, that gave us ſo evident a ſuperiority in that important branch of Britiſh commerce. He thought it would be right to give notice, that the ſtipulations of the treaty appeared to relate only to the coaſts of Newfoundland, and that clearly the French had no right to the inland fiſhery, or to that in the rivers and creeks, where, it ſeems, excellent ſalmon fiſheries abound. They had a right, however, to fiſh in the mouths of the rivers for ſalmon. He explained the utility of uniting both the fiſheries, urging the extreme diſadvantage that muſt reſult from the French being confined to one ſpecies of fiſhery, either that of the cod, or that of the ſalmon; and after ſtating that the loſs of the ſalmon fiſhery would amount to between 5,000l and 6,000l. a year, he concluded with moving for leave to bring in a bill "To enable his Majeſty to make ſuch regulations as may be neceſſary for preventing the inconveniencies which might ariſe from the competition of his Majeſty's ſubjects, and thoſe of the Moſt Chriſtian King, in carrying on the fiſhery on the coaſts of the iſland of Newfoundland."

On the 5th of February, the Houſe went into a committee, to take into conſideration the petitions of the corn diſtillers of London and Scotland. The nature of this buſineſs was as follows:—In the year 1786, an act of Parliament paſſed, by which the Scotch diſtillers were not to be ſubjected to the viſits of exciſe officers, nor to pay according to the quantity of ſpirits that they ſhould actually diſtil; but that they ſhould take out a licence, for which they ſhould

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1788 pay 1l. 10s. per annum for every gallon which each ſtill contained, which would amount to 10d. per gallon on the quantity that it was ſuppoſed they would be able to diſtil annually: but by the Scotch working their ſtills ſometimes four, and ſometimes ſix times in the 24 hours, the duty did not in fact amount to one penny per gallon; ſo that the Scotch were thus enabled to underſell the Engliſh in the London market. They had actually imported into England the whole of the quantity that it was ſuppoſed they would have diſtilled in the year, and 90,000 gallons over; ſo that they had the whole of their home conſumption duty free: in ſhort, the leading principle of this bill was to give the Scotch the full command over their own market, but it had never been in the contemplation of the legiſlature to enable the Scotch diſtillers to meet the diſtillers of London on the Engliſh market under ſuperior advantages. Beſides, in its preſent ſtate, there was a very wide door open for frauds on the revenue; as it had been proved, at a former period, before a committee of the Houſe of Commons, that in one year 300,000 gallons of ſpirits diſtilled in Scotland had been imported into England, more than all the ſpirits diſtilled in Scotland that were paid duty for. The duty paid by the London diſtiller was 2s. 9d. per gallon, in Scotland it was nominally 10d. but in reality not more than from 2½d. to 3d. to which the import of 2s. being added, the whole would make 2s. 3d. or thereabouts. It was therefore propoſed by the Miniſter, by way of equalizing the duties in both kingdoms, that an additional duty of 6d. per gallon ſhould be laid upon ſpirits diſtilled in Scotland and brought into England. As the bill of 1786 was paſſed for two years, it became, undoubtedly, that ſort of compact between the legiſlature and the diſtillers of Scotland for a limited period, of which nothing but very ſtrong circumſtances would warrant an abrogation; but it was evident, as well for the ſake of the revenue, as for the proſperity of the Engliſh diſtillers, that though there were but about five months to come before the act of 1786 expired, an alteration of the duty was abſolutely neceſſary. Indeed, this equalizing duty muſt be conſidered merely as a temporary expedient, as the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in conſidering the matter, declared it to be the intention of Government to undertake a full reviſion of the ſubject, with a view to a new law, that might put the diſtilleries of England and Scotland, reſpectively, on a fair and equitable footing. For the preſent, however, a bill was paſſed for impoſing "ſix-pence per gallon on all ſpirits brewed or made from corn, malt, grain, or tilts; or from cyder, perry, or other waſh or liquor, made or brewed from any ſort of Britiſh materials; or from wort or waſh made from melaſſes or ſugar; or from foreign refuſed wine, or any mixture from the ſtrength of one to ten over hydrometer proof, which ſhall be imported into England from that part of Great Britain called Scotland."

The commercial intercourſe between the ſubjects of his Majeſty's dominions, and the inhabitants of the countries belonging to the United States of America, and of the foreign iſlands in the Weſt Indies, had been hitherto carried on under the authority of annual acts of Parliament; but it was at this time very wiſely propoſed to ſubject that part of it which related to the trade carried on between the United States and the Britiſh Weſt India Iſlands to more permanent regulations. Every one had naturally deſired, if it were poſſible, that the ſupply of lumber, grain, proviſions and fiſh, for the uſe of the Weſt India Iſlands, might be conveyed in Britiſh bottoms for the benefit and increaſe of our navigation; but it had been a matter of doubt with many, whether a ſufficient ſupply of theſe articles could be procured, if American ſhips were excluded from our iſlands. The experience, however, of five years had at length proved that ſuch apprehenſions were without foundation; for ſo long had the experiment been tried; and the reſult was, that under ſuch a regulation the trade had flouriſhed and improved

1788 ſo much, that it was, during the laſt year, carried on to a much more conſiderable extent than in any year preceding the late war. The quantity of lumber and proviſions ſent from America to the Weſt India Iſlands had been fully ſufficient for their ſupply, and our rum fetched a better price than it had hitherto done. From this policy alſo of employing Britiſh bottoms only, the planters had reaped great advantages, and the navigation of the empire had been increaſed, as we now employ every year near 40,000 tons of ſhipping, and near 5,000 ſeamen in that trade alone. On theſe principles a bill was brought into Parliament, on the 12th of February, to ſettle the commercial intercourſe between the United States of America and the Britiſh Weſt India Iſlands on a more permanent footing. In the courſe of the debate on this ſubject, it was aſſerted by Mr. Alderman Watſon, one of the repreſentatives of the city of London, that, although the Britiſh Weſt India Iſlands could not yet be wholly ſupplied with proviſions and lumber without the aid of America, he was confident that, in a very ſhort time, Canada would be able to furniſh them wholly with proviſions, and New Brunſwick with lumber.

It had been reſolved, in the month of October 1787, when his Majeſty had reaſon to be alarmed, and to look with more than common anxiety to the ſafety and preſervation of every part of the Britiſh dominions, to ſend out four additional regiments for the better protection of our Indian poſſeſſions; nor was the deſign taken up as a temporary, but with a view to a permanent eſtabliſhment of his Majeſty's troops in India. At that time, no unwillingneſs to receive the regiments on board the Company's ſhips and provide for their ſupport in India, had been intimated by the Court of Directors; but, on the contrary, the meaſure had been conſidered as a wiſe one, and the ſuggeſtion of it had given univerſal ſatisfaction. Since, however, the threatening ſtorm had been diſperſed, far different ſentiments prevailed. Some of the Directors, at leaſt, were of opinion, that unleſs they made a requiſition to Government for further military aſſiſtance, they had it in their option to bear, or to refuſe to bear, the expence of any additional regiments of his Majeſty's army which might be ſent to India; and this opinion ſeemed to be, in a great meaſure, grounded on the act of 1781, by which the Eaſt India Company were bound to pay for ſuch of his Majeſty's troops as had, by their requiſition, been ſent to India. This idea had been much agitated without doors, and the Directors had thought proper to conſult different Counſel of eminence on the ſubject.

In this buſineſs two queſtions naturally aroſe.—Firſt, Whether the King had a right to ſend his troops to any part of his dominions; and ſecondly, If he ſent them to India, who ought to defray the expence? That his Majeſty had an undoubted right, by his royal prerogative, to direct the diſtribution of his army, no one can, with any colour of reaſon, diſpute. The only point, therefore, which offered itſelf for diſcuſſion was, whether, if his Majeſty, by virtue of his prerogative, thought proper to ſend four additional regiments to India, the expence of ſending them, and their ſupport, ought to be provided for out of the revenues of India, which they protected. It was certainly the opinion of Miniſters, that by the act of 1784, the authority and power of the Court of Directors, touching the military and political concerns of India, and alſo the collection, management, and application of the revenues of the territorial poſſeſſions, was transferred to the Board of Controul, which might direct the appropriation of theſe revenues, in the manner that to them ſhould appear to be moſt for the public advantage; but as doubts had been entertained by others, and the opinions of Counſel, confirming thoſe doubts, had been taken, all of which had gone abroad into the world, it was conſidered as a neceſſary meaſure to call upon the different branches of the legiſlature to remove

thoſe

1788 thoſe doubts in the moſt effectual way by a bill. It was certainly very evident that, on the preſent occaſion, the four regiments might, on board the Company's ſhips, be ſent out to India at a very inconſiderable expence; whereas, if tranſports had been ſpecially provided for that purpoſe, the expence muſt have been enormous. To oblige the Company, therefore, to pay the expence out of their Indian revenues, as had already been intimated to them by the Commiſſioners of Controul, the Chancellor of the Exchequer moved, on the 5th of February, “ That leave be given to bring in a bill for removing any doubts reſpecting the power of the commiſſioners for the affairs of India, to direct that the expence of raiſing, tranſporting, and maintaining ſuch troops as may be judged neceſſary for the ſecurity of the Britiſh territories and poſſeſſions in the Eaſt Indies, ſhould be defrayed out of the revenues ariſing from the ſaid territories and poſſeſſions.” This bill was ſupported and oppoſed in every ſtage of it by all the great abilities of both houſes, and at length received the Royal aſſent.

A bill to prevent the exportation of wool, underwent, in the courſe of this ſeſſion, a great deal of parliamentary diſcuſſion, both in debate and at the bar of the Houſe. The queſtion ſeemed to turn upon the ſuperior claim to advantage poſſeſſed by the wool-grower and the manufacturer. It appeared, after all, from the arguments on both ſides, that the wool-grower had but little to hope, and the manufacturers much to fear from its rejection; it was therefore a more prudent meaſure to keep pace with the fears that were great, than with the hopes that were little. The bill accordingly paſſed.

On the 6th day of May, the following reſolutions, relative to the Eaſt India Company, were agreed to in the Houſe of Commons:

“ Firſt, That it appears, that the ſum total of debts owing by the Eaſt India Company, in the different ſettlements in the Eaſt Indies, excluſive of the ſums for which bills have been granted, payable on the Court of Directors at home, in purſuance of their orders of the 15th of September, 1785, amounted, according to the lateſt accounts received in England, to the ſum of 7 crore, 62 lacks, 21,563 current rupees.

“ Secondly, That it appears, that the annual amount of intereſt payable on the ſaid debts in India, was 53 lacks, 53,341 current rupees.

“ Thirdly, That it appears, that the annual revenues of the Eaſt India Company, in the provinces of Bengal, Bahar and Oriſſa, and from Benares and Oude, under the heads of mint or coinage duties, poſt office collections, Benares revenue, Oude ſubſidy, land revenues, cuſtoms, and the receipts for the ſales of ſalt and opium, amounted, on the average of three years, from $178\frac{2}{3}$ to $178\frac{4}{5}$ to the ſum of 5 crore, 21 lacks, 88,146 current rupees.

“ Fourthly, That it appears, that the annual charges to be defrayed by the Eaſt India Company in the provinces of Bengal, Bahar, and Oriſſa, and in Benares and Oude, under the heads of civil, military and marine, the charges of collecting the revenues and cuſtoms, and the advances and charges on account of ſalt and opium, for the year $178\frac{7}{8}$ are eſtimated, by the Governor General and Council of Bengal, to amount to 3 crore, 6 lacks, 62,401 current rupees.

“ That it appears, that the annual revenues of the Eaſt India Company, in the provinces of Bengal, Bahar, and Oriſſa, and from Benares and Oude, under the heads of mint or coinage duties, poſt office collections, Benares revenue, Oude ſubſidy, land revenue, cuſtoms, and the receipts from the ſales of ſalt and opium, which were eſtimated, for the year $178\frac{6}{7}$, to amount, in the whole, to 3 crore, 85 lacks, 1,858 current rupees, amounted in the whole for the ſaid year, to 3 crore, 99 lacks, 19,710 current rupees.

1788 “ Sixthly, That it appears, that the charges defrayed by the ſaid Company in the ſaid provinces, and in Benares and Oude under the reſpective heads of civil, military and marine, the charges of buildings and fortifications, of collecting the revenues and cuſtoms, and the advances and charges on account of ſalt and opium, which were eſtimated, for the year $178\frac{6}{7}$, to amount in the whole, to 1 crore, 93 lacks, 36,103 current rupees, amounted in the whole for the ſaid year, to 1 crore, 98 lacks, 89,933 current rupees.

“ Seventhly, That it appears, that the annual revenues of the Eaſt India Company, at the Preſidency of Fort St. George, and the ſettlements ſubordinate thereto, and in the Carnatic and Northern Circars, under the heads of mint or coinage duties, ſea or land cuſtoms, ſubſidy of the Nabob of Arcot and Rajah of Tanjore, land revenues, and farms and licences, amounted, on an average of three years, from $178\frac{3}{4}$ to $178\frac{5}{6}$, to the ſum of 25 lacks, 76,805 pagodas.

“ Eighthly, That it appears, that the annual revenues of the Eaſt India Company, at the Preſidency of Fort St. George, and the ſettlements ſubordinate thereto, and in the Carnatic and Northern Circars, under the ſame heads, for the year $178\frac{7}{8}$, are eſtimated, by the Governor and Council of Madras, to amount to the ſum of 32 lacks, 73,041 pagodas.

“ Ninthly, That it appears, that the annual charges to be defrayed by the ſaid Company, at the Preſidency of Fort St. George, and in the Carnatic and Northern Circars, under the reſpective heads of civil, military, buildings and fortifications, and the charges of collecting the revenues and cuſtoms for the year $178\frac{7}{8}$, are eſtimated, by the Governor and Council of Madras, to amount to the ſum of 31 lacks, 77,785 pagodas.

“ Tenthly, That it appears, that the annual revenues of the Eaſt India Company, at the Preſidency of Bombay, and the ſettlements ſubordinate thereto, under the heads of land revenues, cuſtoms and farms or licences, for the year $178\frac{7}{8}$, are eſtimated, by the Governor and Council of Bombay, at the ſum of 11 lacks, 76,601 Bombay rupees.

“ Eleventh, That it appears, that the annual charges to be defrayed by the Eaſt India Company, at the Preſidency of Bombay, and the ſettlements ſubordinate thereto, in the year $178\frac{7}{8}$, are eſtimated, by the Governor and Council at Bombay, at 36 lacks, 51,245 Bombay rupees.

“ Twelfth, That it appears, that the annual revenues of the Eaſt India Company, at the Preſidency of Fort Marlborough and its dependencies, ariſing from cuſtoms, farms and licences, amounted, on an average of three years, from $178\frac{3}{4}$ to $178\frac{5}{6}$, to the ſum of 10,115 dollars.”

The humanity of Parliament, ſupported by that of the nation, had, during this ſeſſion, paid a very particular attention to that branch of commerce which relates to a traffic in the human ſpecie. The ſlave trade has long been conſidered as diſgraceful to an enlightened age, and in this country a ſpirit is ariſen which ſeems bent on annihilating it altogether, or ſo changing the nature of it, as to blend humanity with the policy. It was, however, a ſubject of too comprehenſive a nature, and too materially connected with our African commerce and Weſt India colonies, to come to an immediate deciſion upon it. The philanthropic ſpirit of Parliament, therefore, was obliged to content itſelf for the preſent with a temporary bill to regulate the ſhipping and carrying ſlaves in Britiſh veſſels from the coaſt of Africa. The final arrangement of this important buſineſs, in which the honour of the Britiſh commerce and the Britiſh character, as well as the happineſs of millions of our ſable African brethren is involved, will take place at a period to which this volume will not reach. The paſſing this bill was the laſt act of the ſeſſion, which was concluded on the 11th of July by a gracious ſpeech from the throne.

1788 The following are the principal articles in the treaty of commerce, entered into between Portugal and Ruſſia, which was ratified the 18th of June, 1788.

" Article II. The ſubjects of Portugal ſhall enjoy in Ruſſia a perfect liberty of conſcience, agreeable to the principles of that full tolerance which is there granted to all religions; they ſhall freely diſcharge their duties, and attend to the worſhip of their religion, as well in their own houſes as the public churches eſtabliſhed there, without at any time experiencing the leaſt difficulty in that reſpect. The ſubjects of Ruſſia, in like manner, ſhall never be diſturbed in Portugal in regard to their religion, and they ſhall have obſerved towards them, in this point, what is practiſed with the ſubjects of other nations of a different communion, particularly with thoſe of Great Britain.

" III. Their Majeſties mutually engage to procure to the reſpective ſubjects of each other, all the facilities, aſſiſtance, and protection neceſſary to the progreſs of their reciprocal commerce, and above all of a direct navigation between the two ſtates in all places under their dominion, where navigation and commerce are actually or hereafter may be permitted to the other European nations: but, in all caſes wherein the preſent treaty ſhall not ſtipulate ſome exemptions or privileges in favour of the reſpective ſubjects, they muſt ſubmit, in their commerce, as well by ſea, land, or on the rivers, to the office tariffs, as alſo to the laws, cuſtoms, and regulations of the place where they ſhall find themſelves.

" IV. In all the ports of the reſpective ſtates where entry and commerce are open to European nations, the high contracting powers ſhall have a right to eſtabliſh conſuls-general, conſuls, and vice-conſuls for the advantage of their commercial ſubjects: the ſaid conſuls-general, conſuls, and vice-conſuls, ſhall there enjoy all the protection of the laws; and though they ſhall not exerciſe any kind of juriſdiction, they may nevertheleſs be choſen, at the will of the parties, as arbitrators of their differences; but it ſhall always be free to the ſame parties to addreſs themſelves on preference to the tribunal deſtined for commerce, or other tribunals, to which the ſaid conſuls-general, conſuls, and vice-conſuls, in what concerns their own affairs, ſhall be equally ſubordinate; and they ſhall never be choſen among the native ſubjects of the power with whom they reſide, unleſs an expreſs permiſſion be obtained to admit them in that quality.

" V. The ſubjects of the two contracting powers may aſſemble in the reſpective ſtates with their conſul in a factory, and make among themſelves, for the common intereſt of the body, ſuch convenient arrangements as ſhall not be contrary to the laws, ſtatutes, or regulations of the country or place where they ſhall be eſtabliſhed.

" VI. The commercial ſubjects of the two high contracting powers ſhall pay for their merchandize, in the reſpective ſtates, thoſe duties and other rights fixed by the tariffs actually in force, or which will exiſt at any time to come: but to the end that their commerce may be more and more encouraged, they have agreed on both ſides to grant the following advantages:

" 1. On the part of Ruſſia. That the ſubjects of Portugal may pay the cuſtom-houſe duties, throughout the whole empire of Ruſſia, in the current money of Ruſſia, valuing the rixdollar at 125 copecs, without being obliged to pay them, as heretofore, in effective rixdollars, with exception only of the city and port of Riga, where, according to the tenor of ordinances actually in force, the ſubjects of Ruſſia themſelves muſt pay the cuſtom-houſe duties, for every ſpecies of merchandize, in effective rixdollars.

" 2. All wines the growth of Portugal, or of the iſles of Madeira and the Azores, imported at Ruſſia in Portugueſe or Ruſſian veſſels, or for account of Portugueſe or Ruſſian ſubjects, ſhall

1788 ſhall not pay as duty of entry more than four rubles and fifty copecs per barrique of ſix ankers; but neither ſhall enjoy this advantage except on producing certificates from the conſul of Ruſſia, or in defect of him, from the cuſtom-houſe or magiſtrate of the place from whence the ſaid wines ſhall be diſpatched, which muſt demonſtrate that they are veritably the growth of the places above-mentioned, and for account of Portugueſe or Ruſſian ſubjects. As to the wines above-mentioned, which ſhall be imported into Ruſſia, in other foreign ſhips, the general tariff preſcribed on this ſubject will be adhered to.

" 3. Her Imperial Majeſty of all the Ruſſias conſents that Portugueſe ſhips ſhall import every year, at Riga and Revel, during the continuance of the preſent treaty, 6,000 laſts of Portugal ſalt, paying for that commodity but half the duty fixed by the tariffs exiſting, or which hereafter may exiſt, in the above ports; if they ſhould, however, import a greater quantity, they ſhall pay for the ſurplus the entire cuſtom-houſe duties without any diminution. As to the reſt, Portugueſe ſhips ſhall enjoy this advantage only on condition of producing certificates in due form, proving that the ſaid ſalt is truly the product of Portugal, that it has been exported directly in Portugueſe veſſels, and on account of Portugal or Ruſſian ſubjects. But if by raiſing the duties it is found that the privileged quantity of ſalt imported into the two ports of Riga and Revel ſhall together exceed, in the courſe of the ſame year, the 6,000 laſts agreed upon (which will be againſt the ſpirit of this treaty) the two courts will adopt between them arrangements to prevent ſuch abuſes thereafter.

" VII. In reciprocity of the above conceſſions, her Moſt Faithful Majeſty grants to the ſubjects of Ruſſia the following advantages:

" 1. Ruſſian merchants, now or hereafter to be eſtabliſhed in Portugal, ſhall have the privilege of conſervatory judges on the ſame footing as according to the Engliſh nation; but, if her Moſt Faithful Majeſty ſhould think it proper to make a new regulation on this ſubject for all foreign negotiants eſtabliſhed in her ſtates, without exception, the ſubjects of Ruſſia muſt ſubmit thereto.

" 2. They ſhall alſo have a right to addreſs themſelves to the junto of commerce on mercantile affairs, where a prompt and ſtrict juſtice will be rendered, after the verification of facts, without the other formalities in ordinary proceedings, according to the laws and uſages practiſed amongſt merchants; for which purpoſe her Moſt Faithful Majeſty will grant, when occaſions preſent themſelves, the neceſſary juriſdiction to the above-mentioned junto of commerce.

" 3. Portugueſe or Ruſſian negotiants ſhall only pay half the duties of entry (under whatever denominations they may be) as they are fixed by the tariffs and ordinances which actually or ſhall hereafter exiſt in Portugal, on the productions of Ruſſia ſpecified hereunder, when imported in Portugueſe or Ruſſian veſſels, and for account of Portugueſe or Ruſſian ſubjects; to wit: all ſorts of plants and timbers deſigned for the conſtruction of ſhips, the maſts compriſed therein; hemp; the grain and oil of hemp and linſeed; bars of iron of all ſorts and dimenſions; iron hoops are compriſed, alſo anchors, cannons, bullets, and bombs: but the reſpective ſubjects will not enjoy diminution of impoſt ſave on proving (by certificates in due form from the Portugueſe conſul, or in defect of him, from the cuſtom-houſe or magiſtrate of the quarter whence the above merchandize ſhall be ſent) that they are really the product or manufacture of Ruſſia, and exported on account of Portugueſe or Ruſſian ſubjects. Thoſe advantages will not be allowed to other foreign ſhips which ſhall import into Portugal ſaid merchandize of Ruſſia, but what the general tariffs preſcribe in this reſpect will be adhered to.

1788 "4. If during this treaty her Moſt Faithful Majeſty grants to the ſhips of another nation any diminution of the duties on exportation of wines, the Ruſſian ſhips ſhall enjoy the ſame benefit on wines exported to the ports of Ruſſia.

"VIII. Beſides the reciprocal advantages ſtipulated by the preceding articles, the high contracting parties have further thought proper, for the better encouragement of a direct navigation and commerce between the Portugueſe and Ruſſian nations, to grant to their reſpective ſubjects the following privileges:—Her Moſt Faithful Majeſty agrees to a diminution of half the cuſtom duties fixed by the exiſting tariffs, or any which may hereafter exiſt, on the merchandize of Ruſſia ſpecified under, when imported directly from Ruſſia into Portugal, to wit: ſail cloths of linen, named Olaams, or Flaemiſch, Ravendoucs, and Calamandars; on condition of proving by certificates in due form, that the ſaid merchandiſes are truly the product of Ruſſia, imported directly in Portugueſe or Ruſſian veſſels, and for account of Portugueſe or Ruſſian ſubjects.

"To reciprocate thoſe advantages, her Imperial Majeſty of all the Ruſſias grants a diminution of half the duties which do or may hereafter exiſt in her ſtates on the following merchandiſes of Portugal, when imported directly from Portugal into Ruſſia, viz. oil of olives, Brazil indigo, the tobacco of Brazil in powder, rolls, or leaf, on condition of proving in like manner, by proper certificates, that the ſaid merchandiſes are really the products of Portugal, exported in Portugueſe or Ruſſian veſſels, and for account of Portugueſe and Ruſſian ſubjects.

"IX. As there are other effects and merchandiſes, the production and manufacture of Portugal and her colonies, and of Ruſſia and her domains and conqueſts, which may augment the navigation and commerce of the two nations, and contribute to their mutual advantage, their Moſt Faithful and Imperial Majeſties, taking this object into their high conſideration, have ordered their reſpective Miniſters to examine and conſult on all and every of the ſaid effects and merchandiſes; and from all that ſhall be adjuſted and agreed on one part and the other, new articles will be made, which, when approved of and ratified by the two contracting powers, ſhall become a part of this treaty, as if included and tranſcribed therein word for word."

DEFENSIVE ALLIANCE *between His Majeſty the King of* GREAT BRITAIN, *and their High Mightineſſes the States General of the* UNITED PROVINCES.

"THE mutual and ſincere friendſhip, which has ſo long ſubſiſted between his Majeſty the King of Great Britain, and the Lords the States General of the United Provinces, having been increaſed and ſtrengthened by the intereſt, which his Britannic Majeſty has lately manifeſted in the preſervation of the independence of the Republic, and of its legal conſtitution, his ſaid Majeſty, and the ſaid Lords the States General of the United Provinces, have reſolved, in order to cement, in the moſt ſolid and laſting manner, the good harmony, confidence and correſpondence between them, to form permanent engagements, by a treaty of defenſive alliance, for the good of both parties, and for the maintenance of the general tranquillity, as well as of their own in particular. To accompliſh ſo ſalutary a purpoſe, his Majeſty the King of Great Britain has named and authoriſed Sir James Harris, Privy Councillor, Knight of the Bath, Member of the Parliament of Great Britain, and his Majeſty's Ambaſſador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to their High Mightineſſes; and their High Mightineſſes the States General of the United Provinces, have named and authorized their Deputies for Foreign Affairs; who, after communicating to each other their full powers in due form, and having conferred together, have agreed upon the following articles:

"Art. I. There

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1788 "Art. I. There ſhall be a ſincere, firm, and conſtant friendſhip and union between his Britannic Majeſty, his heirs and ſucceſſors, and the Lords the States General of the United Provinces, ſo that the high contracting parties ſhall direct their utmoſt attention to maintain this mutual attention and correſpondence between them, and their dominions and ſubjects; and they engage to contribute, as far as ſhall be in their power, mutually to preſerve and defend each other in peace and tranquillity.

"II. In caſe either of the high contracting parties ſhould be hoſtilely attacked by any European power, in any part of the world whatſoever, the other contracting party engages to ſuccour its ally, as well by ſea as by land, in order to maintain and guaranty each other mutually in the poſſeſſion of all the dominions, territories, towns, places, franchiſes and liberties, which belonged to them reſpectively before the commencement of hoſtilities.

"III. His Britannic Majeſty guaranties, in the moſt effectual manner, the Hereditary Stadholderate, as well as the office of Hereditary Governor of each Province in the Serene Houſe of Orange, with all the rights and prerogatives thereto belonging, as forming an eſſential part of the conſtitution of the United Provinces, according to the reſolutions and diplomas of the years 1747 and 1748, by virtue of which the preſent Stadholder entered into the poſſeſſion of thoſe offices in 1766, and was reinſtated therein in 1788; engaging to maintain that form of government againſt all attacks and enterpriſes, direct or indirect, of whatſoever nature they may be.

"IV. The ſuccours mentioned in the ſecond article of this Treaty of Defenſive Alliance, ſhall conſiſt, on the part of his Britannic Majeſty, of 8,000 infantry, 2,000 cavalry, 12 ſhips of the line, and 8 frigates; and, on the part of the States General, of 5,000 infantry, 1,000 cavalry, 8 ſhips of the line, and 8 frigates: which reſpective ſuccours ſhall be furniſhed in the ſpace of two months after requiſition made by the party attacked, and ſhall remain at its diſpoſal during the whole continuance of the war in which it ſhall be engaged, whilſt thoſe ſuccours (whether ſhips and frigates, or troops) ſhall be paid and maintained by the power of whom they ſhall be required, where-ever its ally ſhall employ them.

"V. In caſe the ſtipulated ſuccours ſhould not be ſufficient for the defence of the power requiring them, the power to whom requiſition ſhall be made, ſhall ſucceſſively augment them, according to the wants of its ally, whom it ſhall aſſiſt, even with its whole force, if circumſtances ſhould render it neceſſary; but it is expreſly agreed, in all caſes, that the contingent of the Lords the States General ſhall not exceed 10,000 infantry, 2,000 cavalry, 16 ſhips of the line, and 16 frigates.

"VI. But as it may happen (conſidering the diſtance of ſeveral of the poſſeſſions of the two high contracting parties) that the advantages which ought to reſult to them reciprocally from the concluſion of the preſent treaty, may become illuſory, unleſs meaſures can be taken for the mutual defence of thoſe poſſeſſions, before their reſpective governors could receive orders from Europe for that purpoſe; it is ſtipulated and agreed, that in caſe either of them ſhould be hoſtilely attacked, or even menaced with an hoſtile attack, in its poſſeſſions, whether in Africa or in Aſia, by an European power, the governors of their ſettlements in thoſe two parts of the world ſhall be enjoined to concert together the ſuccour to be furniſhed, and, in caſe of need, to furniſh ſuch ſuccour, in the moſt ſpeedy and effectual manner, to the party attacked; and that orders to that effect ſhall be expedited to the ſaid governors immediately after the concluſion of the preſent treaty: and in caſe the two high contracting parties ſhould be obliged to

1788 furniſh the aforeſaid ſuccours, they ſhall not permit the ſhips of war, of what nature they may be, of the power attacking, to enter into any of their ports in the aforeſaid ſettlements, until peace ſhall be reſtored between the party attacking, and the ally of the contracting party, unleſs the ſaid veſſels be forced to take refuge there, to avoid periſhing, or being ſhipwrecked.

“ VII. If it ſhould happen that the two high contracting parties ſhall be equally involved in a war againſt a common enemy, they reciprocally promiſe each other not to diſarm but by common conſent; and they ſhall communicate to each other confidentially the propoſals for a peace, or truce, which may be made.

“ VIII. If the high contracting parties prefer furniſhing their ſuccours of troops in money, they ſhall be at liberty on each ſide ſo to do; and then ſuch ſuccours ſhall be computed at 100,000 florins, Dutch currency, per annum, for 1,000 infantry, and at 120,000 florins, of the like value, for 1,000 cavalry, per annum, and in the ſame proportion by the month.

“ IX. The power requiring ſhall be obliged, whether the ſhips, frigates and troops with which it ſhall have been furniſhed, remain for a long or ſhort time in its ports, to provide whatever they may want, at the ſame price as if they belonged to ſuch power itſelf. It has been agreed, that the ſaid troops or ſhips ſhall not, in any caſe, be at the expence of the party requiring, but that they ſhall nevertheleſs remain at its diſpoſal, during the whole continuance of the war in which it ſhall be engaged. The ſuccours above-mentioned ſhall, with reſpect to diſcipline, be ſubject to the orders of the chief officer who commands them; and they ſhall not be employed ſeparately, or otherwiſe than in concert with the ſaid commanding officer: with regard to the operations, they ſhall be wholly ſubject to the orders of the commander in chief of the power requiring.

“ X. It is agreed, that until the two powers conclude a treaty of commerce with each other, the ſubjects of the Republic ſhall be treated, in the kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland, as the moſt favoured nation; and the ſame ſhall be obſerved in the United Provinces towards the ſubjects of his Britannic Majeſty. It is, however, to be underſtood, that this article is not to extend to a diminution of the import duties payable upon linens.

“ XI. Whereas by the fourth article of the treaty of peace, ſigned in the month of June, 1784, his Britannic Majeſty engages to treat with the Lords the States General for the reſtitution of Negapatnam, with its dependencies, in caſe the ſaid Lords the States General ſhould in future have any equivalent to give; and whereas their High Mightineſſes have now renewed their requeſt for obtaining that reſtitution, as well as for ſettling and determining preciſely the ſenſe of the ſixth article of that treaty, concerning the navigation of Britiſh ſubjects in the Eaſtern ſeas; his Britannic Majeſty, in order to manifeſt his good-will towards the Republic, is diſpoſed to concur in theſe deſires of their High Mightineſſes, and even to ſecure to the Republic additional and real commercial advantages in that part of the world, as ſoon as an equivalent for thoſe objects can be agreed upon; in return for which, his Britannic Majeſty will require nothing but what is favourable to the reciprocal intereſts and ſecurity of the contracting parties in the Indies: and, to prevent the negotiations for ſuch arrangements from retarding the concluſion of the preſent treaty, it is agreed that they ſhall be begun as ſoon as poſſible, and be concluded in the ſpace of ſix months from the date of the preſent treaty; and that the convention to be made thereon ſhall have the ſame force as if it was inſerted in the treaty itſelf.

1788 “ XII. The preſent treaty ſhall be ratified on each ſide, and the exchange of the ratifications ſhall be made in the ſpace of ſix weeks, or ſooner, if it can be done.

“ Done at the Hague the 15th of April, 1788.

“ (L. S.) James Harris.
“ (L. S.) J. W. Comte de Welderen.
“ (L. S.) W. F. H. van Wassenaer.
“ (L. S.) L. P. van de Spiegel.
“ (L. S.) Guillaume de Citters.
“ (L. S.) W. N. Pesters.
“ (L. S.) Charles Bigot.
“ (L. S.) M. B. C. van Voerst v. Borgel.

The following Treaty between the King of Great Britain and the King of Pruſſia, was ſigned on the 13th of Auguſt in the preſent Year.

“ Article I. There ſhall be a perpetual, firm and unalterable friendſhip, defenſive alliance, and ſtrict and inviolable union, together with an intimate and perfect harmony and correſpondence between the ſaid Moſt Serene Kings of Great Britain and Pruſſia, their heirs and ſucceſſors, and their reſpective kingdoms, dominions, provinces, countries and ſubjects, which ſhall be carefully maintained and cultivated, ſo that the contracting powers ſhall conſtantly employ, as well their utmoſt attention, as alſo thoſe means which Providence has put in their power, for preſerving at the ſame time the public tranquility and ſecurity, for maintaining their common intereſts, and for their mutual defence and guaranty againſt every hoſtile attack; the whole in conformity to the treaties already ſubſiſting between the high contracting parties, which ſhall remain in full force and vigour, and ſhall be deemed to be renewed by the preſent treaty, as far as the ſame ſhall not be derogated from, with their own conſent, by poſterior treaties, or by the preſent treaty.

“ II. In conſequence of the engagement contracted by the preceding article, the two high contracting parties ſhall always act in concert for the maintenance of peace and tranquillity; and in caſe either of them ſhould be threatened with an hoſtile attack by any power whatever, the other ſhall employ his moſt efficacious good offices for preventing hoſtilities, for procuring ſatisfaction to the injured party, and for effecting an accommodation in a conciliatory manner.

“ III. But if thoſe good offices ſhould not have the deſired effect, in the ſpace of two months, and either of the high contracting parties ſhould be hoſtilely attacked, moleſted, or diſturbed in any of his dominions, rights, poſſeſſions, or intereſts, or in any manner whatever, by ſea or land, by any European power, the other contracting party engages to ſuccour his ally without delay, in order to maintain each other reciprocally in the poſſeſſion of all the dominions, territories, towns and places which belonged to them before the commencement of ſuch hoſtilities. For which end, if his Pruſſian Majeſty ſhould happen to be attacked, his Majeſty the King of Great Britain ſhall furniſh to his Majeſty the King of Pruſſia a ſuccour of 16,000 infantry, and 4,000 cavalry; and if his Britannic Majeſty ſhould happen to be attacked, his Majeſty the King of Pruſſia ſhall likewiſe furniſh to him a ſuccour of 16,000 infantry, and 4,000 cavalry; which reſpective ſuccours ſhall be furniſhed in the ſpace of two months after requiſition made by the party attacked, and ſhall remain at his diſpoſal during the whole continuance of the war in which they ſhall be engaged. Theſe ſuccours ſhall be paid and maintained by the required power, wherever his ally ſhall employ them, in his dominions, with ſuch

1788 ſuch bread and forage as may be neceſſary, upon the footing to which his own troops are accuſtomed.

"It is nevertheleſs agreed between the high contracting, that if his Britannic Majeſty ſhould be in the caſe of receiving the ſuccour in troops from his Pruſſian Majeſty, his Britannic Majeſty ſhall not employ them out of Europe, nor even in the garriſon of Gibraltar.

"If the injured and requiring party ſhould prefer ſuccours in money to land forces, he ſhall have his choice; and in caſe of the two high contracting powers furniſhing to each other the ſtipulated ſuccours in money, ſuch ſuccours ſhall be computed at 100,000 florins, Dutch currency, per annum, for 1,000 infantry, and at 120,000 florins, of the like value, for 1,000 cavalry, per annum, or in the ſame proportion by the month.

"IV. In caſe the ſtipulated ſuccours ſhould not be ſufficient for the defence of the requiring power, the required power ſhall augment them, according to the exigency of the caſe, and ſhall aſſiſt the former with his whole force, if circumſtances ſhall render it neceſſary.

"V. The high contracting parties hereby renew, in the moſt expreſs terms, the proviſional treaty or defenſive alliance which they concluded at Loo, on the 13th of June in the preſent year, and they again engage and promiſe to act, at all times, in concert and with mutual confidence, for maintaining the ſecurity, independence and government of the Republic of the United Provinces, conformably to the engagements which they have lately contracted with the ſaid Republic; that his to ſay, his Britannic Majeſty, by a treaty concluded at the Hague, on the 15th of April, 1788, and his Pruſſian Majeſty, by a treaty ſigned the ſame day at Berlin, which the ſaid high contracting parties have communicated to each other.

"And if it ſhall happen that, by virtue of the ſtipulations of the ſaid treaties, the high contracting parties ſhould be obliged to augment the ſuccours to be given to the States General, above the numbers ſpecified in the ſaid treaties, or to aſſiſt them with their whole force, the ſaid high contracting parties will concert together upon all that may be neceſſary relative to ſuch augmentation of ſuccours to be agreed on, and to the employment of their reſpective forces for the ſecurity and defence of the ſaid Republic.

"In caſe either of the ſaid high contracting parties ſhould, at any time hereafter, be attacked, moleſted, or diſturbed in any of his dominions, rights, poſſeſſions, or intereſts, in any manner whatever, by ſea or by land, by any other power, in conſequence and in hatred of the articles or ſtipulations contained in the ſaid treaties, or of the meaſures to be taken by the ſaid contracting parties reſpectively, in virtue of thoſe treaties, the other contracting party engages to ſuccour and aſſiſt him againſt ſuch attack, in the ſame manner, and by the ſaid ſuccours as are ſtipulated in the third and fourth articles of the preſent treaty; and the ſaid contracting parties promiſe, in all ſimilar caſes, to maintain and guaranty each other in the poſſeſſion of all the dominions, towns and places, which belonged to them reſpectively before the commencement of ſuch hoſtilities."

The following financial ſtatement made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, is at once ſo comprehenſive and perſpicuous, and exhibits ſuch a complete, fair, and ſatisfactory view of the ſtate of our national reſources and expenditure at this time, that to curtail it, or give it in any other manner, would be an act of injuſtice both to our readers and the abilities which produced it.

Mr. Pitt ſaid, "That in laying before the committee an account of the ſtate of the revenues, and particularly of the receipt and expenditure for the year, he was more than uſually anxious to gain their attention, and to ſhew them how truly the calculations had been made, and in how ſmall a compaſs of time the influence of the arrangement which was adopted had

1788 operated to the eſſential benefit of the nation. The ſtatement could not fail to give univerſal ſatisfaction to every gentleman who heard him.—He would not detain the committee with any previous matter, but ſimply ſtate the particulars of the account on both ſides, obſerving, however, in the firſt place, that a very conſiderable increaſe had taken place in the expences of this year beyond the eſtimate that had been made in the year 1786, and which had been thought eſſential to our national proſperity and honour. Theſe were not likely to occur again, and, in the mean time, it was a matter of no ſmall ſatisfaction, that notwithſtanding theſe increaſed demands and temporary calls, ſuch had been the beneficial effects of the late arrangement, and ſuch the proſperous condition of the country, that ample proviſion had been made for all, without recurring either to a loan or to new taxes.

He firſt ſtated the ſeveral articles of ſupply which had been voted for the ſervice of the preſent year, and which conſiſted of the following heads, viz:

NAVY.

	£.	
Eighteen thouſand ſeamen,	936,000	
Ordinary,	700,000	
Extraordinary,	600,000	
Making a total of		2,236,000

ARMY.

Guards and garriſons, plantations and Gibraltar; half pay to the Britiſh and American forces, to the amount of 228,000l. and to Chelſea penſioners, 173,000l. &c. &c. making a total for the army of the preſent year of	2,022,023

But from which ſum 43,000l. is to be deducted, on account of ſtoppages from the troops abroad for proviſions ſupplied them from hence.

Ordnance,	419,000
Expence of maintaining convicts,	34,000
Annual allowance to American loyaliſts,	74,000
Repayments on addreſſes, &c.	46,000
Civil eſtabliſhments in America, together with the expences of Somerſet-place, African forts, &c.	90,000
Deficiency of grants in the year 1787,	63,000
Eſtimated deficiency of land and malt,	300,000
Expence of the armament,	311,000
Sum voted to pay his Royal Highneſs the Prince of Wales's debt, &c.	181,000
Amounting in the whole to	5,779,365

That a further ſum has been voted to pay off Exchequer bills, and for deficiencies of ſeveral funds, to the 5th of April, 1787, which latter will never occur again, in conſequence of the Conſolidation act; but as both theſe ſums, to the amount of 6,078,000l. are taken on both ſides of the account, he omitted them, for the ſake of perſpicuity.

In this account, it was to be obſerved, that in the navy there was an increaſe beyond what would be the neceſſary peace eſtabliſhment of 446,000l. In the army there was an increaſe of 233,000l. and in the ordnance there was an increaſe of 61,000l. Theſe increaſed demands were occaſioned by the circumſtance of our putting the diſtant poſſeſſions of the country into a ſtate

1788 ſtate of more complete defence, by ſending out 3,000 men more than came within the contemplation of the committee, when they made the report of what would be the requiſite peace eſtabliſhment of the navy, and by the conſequent extraordinary ſum for ſupplying that body with proviſions. Theſe were not then to be conſidered as the permanent neceſſary expences of the country: and to theſe were ſeveral ſums to be added which could not occur again, or at leaſt could not make a part of our ſettled yearly expence. Such was the ſum for the relief of the loyaliſts; ſuch the expence of the late armament, and ſuch the vote for the payment of the debts of his Royal Highneſs the Prince of Wales. Theſe ſums added together, amounted to 1,282,000l. which was truly extraordinary, and they were conſequently to be deducted from the ſettled regular peace eſtabliſhment of the country. It had been conſidered as wiſe to put every part of the Britiſh dominions into ſuch a poſture of defence, as to aſcertain to the country the bleſſings of peace, and he had the happineſs to ſay, that though they had thus incurred an extraordinary expence of more than 1,200,000l. the receipts of the country had fully anſwered it, and that without abating from the plan which the Houſe, in its wiſdom, had eſtabliſhed for the diminution of the national debt. That the ſame extraordinary demands would continue in future was not to be apprehended, though, undoubtedly, it would be ſome time before they could come to the real eſtabliſhment which, in time of peace, had been thought ſufficient for the country in the report that was made in 1786; but it was a happy circumſtance, that the condition and proſpect of the country warranted him in ſaying, that they ſhould be able to provide for the extra expence in the years to come, as they had in this, without going into any new operation of finance.

He then ſtated, that in order to defray theſe expences, Parliament had already voted,

	£.
Land and malt,	2,750,000
That he ſhould propoſe to the committee to vote a farther ſum, to be taken as the growing produce of the conſolidated fund, between this and the 5th of April, 1788,	1,845,000
Impreſt monies, to be paid in the courſe of the year,	200,000
Army ſavings of the year 1786,	200,000
And a farther ſum to be repaid by the India Company, on account of troops and victualling the fleet in the Eaſt Indies,	500,000
Premium on the lottery,	258,000
Stoppages from the troops for proviſions,	43,000
Total,	5,796,000
Exchequer bills, and the ſum voted for deficiencies, as ſtated in the ſupply,	6,078,000

Having gone through the whole of the account, and ſpecified the ſeveral ſums, he ſtated that there was a clear ſurplus this year of 27,000l. over all the expences, without taxes, without loan, and without interrupting, for a moment, the application of the million to the diſcharge of debt. The ſurplus had been applied; the armament had been provided for; the debts of his Royal Highneſs had been paid; the extraordinary expence of 1,200,000l. had been ſuſtained, and there was a clear ſurplus of 27,000l. The extraordinary expence would, he feared, endure for two years more. It would take ſo long before they could be certain of coming to the permanent peace eſtabliſhment. Perhaps he might ſtate the farther extraordinary expence that the nation

1788 nation was likely to incur for exceſs of navy, exceſs of army, exceſs of ordnance, and indeed for every other article, except one, of a material nature, at a million, or a million and a half; and for this he thought there were ample reſources in the revenue, as there had been proved to be for the large exceſs of the preſent year.

The other article of extraordinary expence which he meant, was the ſatisfaction to be made to the American loyaliſts. The commiſſioners had now nearly wound up the whole of the claims, and it appeared that there was property loſt, which the commiſſioners had aſcertained and agreed to liquidate at 1,860,000l. There might yet remain 200,000l. or 300,000l. to be aſcertained. This was to be conſidered as loſs of property. There were alſo claims of loſs of office, which the Houſe would take into their conſideration, and act upon as their generoſity might incline them: but ſtating the whole at 2,000,000l. or 2,100,000l. the Houſe would ſee that 500,000l. had been paid them, and there was ſtill 1,500,000l or 1,600,000l. to be paid. He was authoriſed to ſay, that they would be well pleaſed to have this ſum paid them by inſtallments, and that the payment ſhould commence next year. He confeſſed he approved of this arrangement, as the preſent year was ſo loaded with exceſſes; and avoiding to adopt this mode of payment, he meant to propoſe that the profits of a lottery, to be eſtabliſhed annually, until their claims were fully liquidated, ſhould be applied to their relief. A lottery of ſeven or eight years would fully anſwer this exigency, provided that the bargain ſhould every year be rendered as profitable as it had for the laſt year, and for the preſent. He had made the bargain, on a competition among different bidders, and the profit would be as he had ſtated it, about 260,000l. a year. Gentlemen might be aſtoniſhed at this circumſtance, but ſuch was the rage and madneſs for this ſpecies of gambling, and ſuch was the bargain that he had made.

The probable ſtate of our revenue, and the certain amount of our expence, were matters which came next in order, as, undoubtedly, it would be requiſite to prove that we ought to have confidence in our ſituation. That we ſhould invariably proceed in applying the million to the diminution of the national debt, was a propoſition which he would not detain the Houſe for a moment in diſcuſſing, as it had already ſo forcibly demonſtrated its utility. The million was, therefore, added to the permanent eſtabliſhment of the country, and as the Houſe had, in its wiſdom, eſtabliſhed a larger ſyſtem of defence than was in contemplation two years ago, he would ſtate the permanent peace eſtabliſhment of the country, inſtead of 15,478,000l. as calculated by the committee, 15,624,000l. He explained the riſe to proceed from the increaſed plantation eſtimate, which would coſt 100,000l. more than it was taken at, and the Heſſian ſubſidy, which was 36,000l. There was to be deducted from this ſum a ſaving intereſt of about 16,000l. a year, which made the exceſs about 120,000l. only, but he took it at 124,000l. calculating the anticipated eſtabliſhment at 15,500,000l. The produce of the laſt year's revenue, up to the period ending the fifth of April, including the land and malt, was 15,792,000l. which was 314,000l. more than the committee ſaid would be neceſſary for an eſtabliſhment, and it was 168,000l. more than was neceſſary, even by the increaſed eſtabliſhment, which the Houſe had thought it wiſe to adopt, and which perhaps political circumſtances had rendered requiſite.

Arguing, therefore, from the experience of laſt year, we had the faireſt ground for confidence, that we ſhould not only enjoy ample funds for the liquidation of every expence, but alſo for carrying on the great purpoſe of the late arrangement, the extinction of the capital of our debt: but perhaps it might be argued, that it was not a fair mode of ſtating our ſituation, nor a rational ground of confidence, to argue from the evidence of one year only. He begged

1788 leave to remind the Committee, that the laſt year had many unfriendly circumſtances in it, particularly the interruption which our commerce naturally received in the late alarm of war: but, even looking back to the average of the laſt three years, they found the calculation ſtrongly confirmed, though certainly the ſurplus was not ſo favourable: yet we had other very eſſential grounds of confidence; various branches of revenue were improving, and many more were ſuſceptible of improvement. The farming of the poſt horſe duty brought an acceſſion of 30,000l. to the funds. He muſt yet, before the cloſe of the ſeſſion, propoſe an increaſe of duty on the ſtills uſed in the diſtillery of Scotland, which would neceſſarily add ſomething to the revenue; and an increaſe on the duty on houſes for ſelling ſpirituous liquors, would alſo give ſomething more. There were other objects which, perhaps, it was now too late to touch on, but which certainly merited the regard of that Houſe. One in particular was a very productive ſource—he meant tobacco. Some regulations to prevent the abuſes practiſed to avoid the duty on tobacco, were eſſentially neceſſary. He had it in his view to propoſe ſomething on this ſubject, but he was not yet fully adequate to the attempt. It required very great care, and very nice diſcuſſion; but which, though he was obliged to paſs it for the preſent, he would not overlook nor forget. There were other objects which ought to give them firm and ſteady confidence.

The progreſſive nature of a country in peace, and particularly of ſuch a country as England, was a material object, and this was not left for mere ſpeculation. But, by the fortunate experience of four years we were able to form ſome eſtimate. We had been at peace five years. The receipt of the permanent taxes in the year 1787 had been 15,792,000l. including the land and malt, or 13,000,000l. excluſive. The receipt of the taxes in the year 1783, excluſive of the land and malt, had been 10,184,000l. Thus there was an increaſed revenue of 3,000,000l. of which not more than one million and a half accrued from new taxes; the reſt proceeded from the actual, clear, and aſcertained improvement of the country in all its branches, and which demonſtrated the increaſed opulence of the empire. Every department preſented the ſame progreſſive improvement. In the trade, the navigation, and the fiſheries, the progreſſive improvement bore an exact proportion to the increaſed revenue; ſo that our exports and imports, with the great loſs of the American Colonies, upon which ſome perſons had ſo much depended—with the immenſe loſs for ever of the money that was laviſhed on the war—with the loſs of the people—our exports and imports were now as great as in the moſt flouriſhing year before the laſt war.

In the year 1772,	£.
Our imports were upwards of	14,500,000
Our exports upwards of	16,000,000
In 1773,	
The imports were,	12,000,000
The exports,	16,000,000
These were the greateſt years before the war.	
In 1786,	
The imports were	15,786,000
The exports	16,300,000
In 1787,	
The imports were not aſcertained,	
But the exports were	16,600,000

A. D. 1788 Perhaps it might be ſaid, that in theſe comparative ſtatements the balance was againſt us in the latter years; but the increaſe of the imports aroſe from the home conſumption of luxuries; it proceeded from the beneficial import of raw materials uſed in our manufactures; and it might be conſidered as a very pleaſing circumſtance attending the increaſed imports, that they chiefly came from a part of our own empire—they came from Ireland.

In like manner our navigation has increaſed. Our valuable fiſhery in particular had improved with much rapidity. The Newfoundland fiſhery, that great nurſery of our ſeamen, was in a moſt flouriſhing condition.

In 1773 and 1774 it produced 516,000 quintals, and in 1786, the produce was 732,000.

In 1773, the tonnage in the Greenland fiſhery was 27,000, and in 1786 it was 53,000.

In 1773, the number of ſhips was 96,—in 1786 the number was increaſed to 153,—and in 1787, with the reduced bounty, the number was 284.

The number of men employed in this fiſhery in 1786, was 6,600. He had not heard the preciſe number in 1787, but from the increaſe of tonnage, it could not be leſs than 10,000.—The Southern Whale fiſhery, a new and very valuable branch of trade, which we only took up at the beginning of the laſt war, had alſo equally proſpered, and added to the revenues by augmenting the opulence of the country.

In this fiſhery, in 1785, there were employed 18 ſhips, producing 29,000l.

In 1787 there were employed 38 ſhips, producing 107,000l.

He mentioned theſe circumſtances, to prove that our improved condition came from no forced revenues, but was the fair and actual reſult of increaſed commerce. We had thus aſcertained a ſurplus, after having appropriated a million to the payment of our debt. We had given great additional ſtrength to our foreign poſſeſſions, and, in doing this, we had not overlooked that which was the favourite ſervice at home. No leſs than 7,000,000l. had, in the courſe of four years, been expended in the improvement of the navy; and he took upon him to ſay, that it had been applied with as much fidelity as it had been voted with judgment.—There were, he would pledge himſelf to prove, 30 ſhips of the line, and 35 frigates, built or repaired, more than there were in the firſt four years after the peace of 1763. In addition to this, we had abſolutely and for ever extinguiſhed two millions and a half of our debt.

Our rival, France, who had interfered in the diſpute with our late colonies,—who had projected to herſelf ſuch immenſe advantages, and who certainly had advantages in it, he was now able to prove, had gained leſs by the war than ſhe expected, and that we had ſuffered leſs than had been anticipated. He had, within a few hours, ſeen the acknowledged ſtate of the French finances, as drawn forth and exhibited by the French Government. By this account, the avowed annual deficiency of revenue to anſwer their neceſſary expences, after all the retrenchments they had made, was upwards of 2,300,000l. ſterling. Their receipt was acknowledged to be ſomewhat above 400,000,000 of livres, or about 20,000,000l. ſterling. Their expence was confeſſed to be 527,255,000 of livres, or 22,900,000l. In the ſame ſtatement, there was a plan deviſed for an annual loan of five or ſix years to come, which, with a variety of projected retrenchments, was held out as ſufficient to wind up the effects of their derangement. He mentioned this, ſimply to ſhew the comparative condition of the two countries; and ſurely it afforded ſome matter of pride to England, that its rival, who had thus interfered without provocation, had been ſo thoroughly diſappointed in the views which ſhe had in the conflict."

A. D.
1788 It appears, from the beſt authority, that the following is a correct ſtatement of the number of ſlaves in the ſeveral Weſt India Iſlands now in the poſſeſſion of Great Britain.

	Number.
In Jamaica,	174,000
— Barbadoes,	80,000
— Antigua,	36,000
— Grenada and the Grenadines,	40,000
— St. Chriſtophers,	27,000
— St. Vincents,	15,000
— Dominica,	15,000
— Anguilla, Tortola, &c.	14,000
— Nevis,	10,000
— Montſerrat,	9,000
Total,	410,000

The negroes in the French Weſt India Iſlands were, in the year 1777, computed at 386,500. The Abbé Raynal ſtates the whole number of African ſlaves in America and the Weſt India Iſlands at 1,400,000. The conſtant annual importation, and of courſe the annual conſumption of negroes in the Weſt India Iſlands, is ſuppoſed to have been, of late years, on an average, 60,000. The Slave Trade firſt began about the year 1503, and the Engliſh took it up about 1556. The Abbé Raynal ſtates the total importation from Africa at about 9,000,000 of ſlaves.

The following ſtatement of population in the principal cities of Europe, taken at the diſtance of a century, has been collected from the moſt approved and accurate accounts that have been publiſhed on the ſubject.

	Number of Souls in 1688.	*In* 1788.
In London,	696,000	1,100,000
— Paris,	488,000	800,000
— Marſeilles	200,000	180,000
— Lyons,	250,000	150,000
— Naples,	200,000	354,000
— Rome,	200,000	157,400
— Amſterdam,	187,000	185,000
— Venice,	134,000	100,000
— Bourdeaux,	100,000	200,000
— Dublin,	69,000	170,000
— Rouen,	66,000	100,000
— Briſtol,	48,000	50,000
— Cork,	40,000	90,000
— Liverpool,	20,000	60,000

By this ſtatement it appears, that the cities of London, Paris, Naples, Bourdeaux, Dublin, Rouen, Briſtol, Cork, and the town of Liverpool have increaſed; and that Marſeilles, Lyons, Rome, Amſterdam and Venice, have decayed in their population; from which circumſtance,

Naples

1788 Naples from the fifth is become the third; Bourdeaux from the ninth is become the fourth; and Dublin from the tenth to the ſeventh in rank, as to the number of inhabitants.

An Authentic Account of the Duties collected on Coals brought Coaſtways into each Port in England, in this Year.

		£.	s.	d.			£.	s.	d.
Aberyſtwith,	—	362	3	4¾	Looe,	—	243	10	6
Aldborough,	—	902	15	1½	Lyme,	—	1,215	0	1¾
Arundel,	—	1,332	4	7¼	Leigh,	—	1,415	14	0
Barnſtaple,	—	1,243	3	6	Lynn,	—	22,185	8	10
Beaumaris,	—	2,637	6	11	Malden,	—	4,891	6	3
Berwick,	—	43	9	0	Milford,	—	594	15	3½
Biddeford,	—	786	3	7¾	Minehead,	—	975	15	7¾
Boſton,	—	8,031	7	6	Newhaven,	—	1,421	16	3½
Bridgewater,	—	2,385	0	2½	Padſtow,	—	606	15	1¾
Bridlington,	—	1,047	7	2½	Penryn,	—	437	13	4¾
Briſtol,	—	452	15	1	Penzance,	—	863	18	1
Cardiff,	—	94	4	11¾	Plymouth,	—	5,947	15	10¼
Cardigan,	—	105	17	10½	Poole,	—	3,077	4	4¼
Chepſtow,	—	9	1	11	Portſmouth,	—	6,880	5	8
Cheſter,	—	20	1	11½	Poulton,	—	31	18	4½
Chicheſter,	—	1,985	15	1	Rocheſter,	—	9,470	4	1¼
Cley,	—	2,287	14	9½	Rye,	—	2,029	1	11½
Colcheſter,	—	3,785	11	3	St. Ives,	—	2,504	3	3¾
Cowes,	—	1,537	7	11	Sandwich,	—	3,263	19	7½
Dartmouth,	—	2,628	11	7¾	Scarborough,	—	2,177	15	5
Deal,	—	961	10	9	Shoreham,	—	2,051	0	8
Dover,	—	2,615	3	3¾	Southampton,	—	7,265	17	11½
Exeter,	—	6,172	14	10	Southwould,	—	1,079	18	6
Falmouth,	—	695	18	8¼	Stockton,	—	117	18	1½
Faverſham,	—	4,560	4	9½	Swanſea,	—	37	13	11½
Fowey,	—	1,340	3	9½	Truro,	—	5,743	10	6¾
Glouceſter,	—	212	3	3	Wells,	—	2,405	4	4½
Gweek,	—	184	6	9¾	Weymouth,	—	1,553	17	4½
Harwich,	—	4,594	1	7½	Whitby,	—	6,523	6	0¼
Hull,	—	385	7	0½	Whitehaven,	—	94	18	10½
Ilfracombe,	—	300	14	6¼	Wiſbeach,	—	5,978	4	6
Ipſwich,	—	6,211	8	6	Woodbridge,	—	1,961	13	3
Lancaſter,	—	1,389	19	10	Yarmouth,	—	16,396	7	3½
					Total,		182,745	15	0¾

In order to come at the quantity of coals, each ſum muſt be divided by 5s. 6d. which is the duty per chaldron in the Out Ports.

A. D. 1788.

An Account of the Quantity of Coals imported into the Port of London in the following Years.

Years.	*Chaldrons.*	*Vats.*	*Buſhels.*
In 1786,	659,972	3	0
— 1787,	750,662	3	0
— 1788,	764,272	3	3

An Account of the Quantity of Coals exported from Great Britain in the following Years.

	Newcaſtle Meaſure.		*Winton Meaſure.*	
Years.	*Chaldrons.*	*Buſhels.*	*Chaldrons.*	*Buſhels.*
In 1786,	102,367	6	212,136	15
— 1787,	104,615	44	175,075	6¾

The quantity of coals exported in 1788, was not made up when this account was taken.

The Number of Veſſels which entered the Port of Bourdeaux in the courſe of this year, is as follows:

From the Weſt Indies, Africa and Newfoundland,	284
Coaſters,	4,040
Strangers,	336
In all	4,660

The following Ships arrived at Liſbon during this Year.

Portugueſe	283	Venetian,	11
Engliſh,	351	Raguſians,	6
French,	174	Hamburghers,	5
Hollanders,	89	Imperial,	3
Denmark,	87	Bremeners,	3
Swedes,	34	Pruſſian,	1
Spaniſh,	31	Ruſſian,	1
American,	59	Dantzickers,	1
		In all	1,109

Notwithſtanding we have given, from Time to Time, a particular Detail of the annual Imports and Exports of Great Britain, we ſhall cloſe that important Source of Information by the following authentic TABLE, made up from the Cuſtom-Houſe Accounts, which gives, at one View, the Totals of the Britiſh Imports and Exports from the commencement of the preſent Century to the Year 1788.

	Imports.			*Exports.*			*Exceſs.*		
Years.	£.	*s.*	*d.*	£.	*s.*	*d.*	£.	*s.*	*d.*
1700	5,970,175	1	10	7,302,716	8	7	1,332,541	6	8
1701	5,869,606	9	10	7,621,053	6	5	1,751,446	16	7
1702	4,159,304	16	0	5,235,874	0	5	1,076,569	4	5
1703	4,526,596	11	1	6,644,103	6	0	2,117,506	14	11

A. D.
1788

Years.	Imports. £.	s.	d.	Exports. £.	s.	d.	Excess. £.	s.	d.
1704	5,383,200	16	5	6,552,019	18	2	1,168,819	1	8
1705	4,031,649	14	10	5,501,677	11	2	1,470,027	16	4
1706	4,113,933	3	3	6,512,086	17	1	2,398,153	13	9
1707	4,274,055	10	4	6,767,178	8	6	2,493,122	18	2
1708	4,698,663	11	8	6,969,089	19	1	2,270,426	7	5
1709	4,510,593	11	8	6,627,045	17	6	2,116,452	5	9
1710	4,011,341	7	4	6,690,828	15	2	2,679,487	7	10
1711	4,685,785	17	7	6,447,170	16	3	1,761,384	18	7
1712	4,454,682	11	6	7,468,857	5	1	3,014,174	13	6
1713	5,811,077	16	6	7,352,655	12	2	1,541,577	15	8
1714	5,929,227	0	8	8,361,638	3	3	2,432,411	2	6
1715	5,640,943	16	5	7,379,409	0	8	1,738,465	4	3
1716	5,800,258	7	8	7,614,085	6	11	1,813,826	19	3
1717	6,346,768	1	6	9,147,700	2	4	2,800,932	0	10
1718	6,669,390	1	1	8,255,302	14	5	1,585,912	13	4
1719	5,367,499	8	3	7,709,528	1	7	2,342,028	13	4
1720	6,090,083	15	1	7,936,728	16	6	1,846,645	1	5
1721	5,768,510	16	7	8,681,200	17	4	2,912,690	0	9
1722	6,378,098	19	1	9,650,789	17	10	3,272,690	18	9
1723	6,505,676	6	8	9,489,811	16	7	2,984,135	9	11
1724	7,394,405	2	5	9,143,356	12	7	1,748,951	10	2
1725	7,094,708	8	6	11,352,480	11	4	4,257,772	2	10
1726	6,677,865	13	4	9,406,731	10	10	2,728,865	17	6
1727	6,798,908	4	2	9,553,043	18	3	2,754,135	14	1
1728	7,569,299	1	9	11,631,383	1	11	4,062,084	0	2
1729	7,540,620	10	5	11,475,771	16	8	3,935,151	6	3
1730	7,780,019	9	2	11,974,135	14	11	4,194,116	5	9
1731	6,991,500	3	11	11,167,380	10	6	4,175,880	6	7
1732	7,087,914	5	0	11,786,658	13	0	4,698,744	8	0
1733	8,016,814	2	2	11,777,306	6	7	3,760,492	4	5
1734	7,095,861	8	4	11,000,645	2	2	3,904,783	13	10
1735	8,160,184	0	11	13,544,144	7	0	5,383,960	6	1
1736	7,307,966	12	10	11,616,356	10	2	4,308,389	17	4
1737	7,073,638	3	6	11,842,320	17	0	4,768,682	13	6
1738	7,438,960	4	7	12,289,495	7	1	4,850,535	2	6
1739	7,829,373	8	11	9,495,366	14	3	1,665,993	5	4
1740	6,703,778	10	6	8,869,939	15	5	2,166,161	4	11
1741	7,936,084	18	7	11,469,872	8	2	3,533,787	9	7
1742	6,866,864	13	0	11,584,427	2	4	4,717,562	9	4
1743	7,802,353	6	6	14,623,653	9	6	6,821,300	3	0
1744	6,362,971	6	6	11,429,628	10	3	5,066,657	3	9
1745	7,847,123	3	3	10,497,329	17	0	2,650,206	13	9
1746	6,205,687	13	8	11,360,792	16	2	5,155,105	0	6

	Imports.			*Exports.*			*Exceſs.*		
Years.	*£.*	*s.*	*d.*	*£.*	*s.*	*d.*	*£.*	*s.*	*d.*
1747	7,116,757	5	6	11,442,049	1	6	4,325,291	16	0
1748	8,136,408	19	6	12,351,433	12	11	4,215,024	13	5
1749	7,917,804	10	4	14,099,366	11	0	6,181,562	0	8
1750	7,772,039	12	5	15,132,004	3	1	7,359,964	10	8
1751	7,943,436	4	5	13,967,811	8	7	6,024,375	4	2
1752	7,889,369	9	3	13,221,116	3	11	5,331,746	14	8
1753	8,625,029	4	3	14,264,614	3	11	5,639,584	19	8
1754	8,093,472	15	0	13,396,853	9	7	5,303,383	14	7
1755	8,772,865	2	10	12,182,255	17	6	3,409,390	14	8
1756	7,961,603	8	10	12,517,640	8	3	4,556,036	19	5
1757	9,253,317	14	9	13,438,285	1	0	4,184,967	6	3
1758	8,415,025	4	10	15,034,994	10	7	6,619,969	5	9
1759	8,922,976	1	4	14,696,892	7	1	5,773,916	5	9
1760	9,832,802	11	1	15,579,073	0	5	5,746,270	9	4
1761	9,543,901	14	4	16,365,953	0	7	6,822,051	6	3
1762	8,870,234	14	3	14,134,093	3	6	5,263,858	9	3
1763	11,665,036	0	9	16,160,181	16	3	4,495,145	15	6
1764	10,364,307	12	3	16,512,403	16	3	6,148,096	4	0
1765	10,889,742	13	10	14,550,507	1	8	3,660,764	7	10
1766	11,475,775	5	8	14,024,964	2	8	2,549,188	17	0
1767	12,073,956	0	11	13,844.511	1	8	1,770,555	0	9
1768	11,878,661	2	7	15,117,982	16	1	3,239,321	13	6
1769	11,908,560	16	5	13,438,236	6	11	1,529,675	10	6
1770	12,216,937	14	3	14,266,653	17	5	2,049,716	3	2
1771	12,821,995	16	9	17,161,146	14	2	4,339,150	17	5
1772	14,508,715	16	9	18,732.379	5	8	4,233,663	8	11
1773	12,522,643	7	0	16,654,052	5	8	4,131,408	18	8
1774	14,548,902	16	1	17,607,447	4	0	3,058,544	7	11
1775	14,816,955	17	2	16,946,523	18	4	2,129,568	1	2
1776	12,449,189	17	11	15,685,107	16	7	3,235,918	18	8
1777	12,643,834	7	8	14,152,243	6	1	1,508,408	18	5
1778	10,975,533	1	0	12,375,712	12	11	1,400,179	11	11
1779	11,435,263	13	5	13,597,771	4	2	2,162,507	10	9
1780	11,714,967	7	11	13,689,073	12	6	1,974,105	4	7
* 1781	12,723,613	16	1	11,470,388	14	8	1,253,235	1	5*
1782	10,341,628	15	6	13,224,637	10	11	2,883.008	15	5
1783	13,122,235	7	6	15,450,778	12	9	2,328,543	5	3
* 1784	15,272,802	0	3	14,961,074	11	9	311,727	8	6*
1785	16,279,490	1	6	16,770,239	7	9	490,749	6	3
1786	15,786,072	7	5	16,300,730	12	5	514,658	5	0
1787	17,804,024	16	1	18,296,166	12	11	492,141	16	10

N. B. In thoſe years marked with aſteriſks, the exceſs is to be underſtood of the imports; in all others, of the exports.

A. D. 1788. We have already given a liſt of the number of the Dutch ſhips employed in the whale fiſhery, from the year 1770,—but, as the following Table, with which we are now furniſhed, gives the Hiſtory of the Dutch Greenland Trade in a more particular manner, and during the courſe of upwards of a century, we ſhall inſert it, without any juſt reaſon to fear the charge of repetition.

A LIST *of* GREENLAND *and* STRAIT DAVIS *Ships, from* HOLLAND, *ſince the Year* 1661, *with the number of Fiſh caught each Year.*

Years	*Ships*	*Fiſh*	*Years*	*Ships*	*Fiſh*	*Years*	*Ships*	*Fiſh.*	*Years*	*Ships*	*Fiſh*
1661	133	$452\frac{1}{2}$	1693	90	175	1725	226	$530\frac{1}{2}$	1757	180	$423\frac{1}{2}$
1662	149	862	1694	63	$161\frac{5}{12}$	1726	218	244	1758	159	$371\frac{1}{2}$
1663	202	$932\frac{1}{2}$	1695	97	$187\frac{5}{6}$	1727	202	$402\frac{1}{2}$	1759	155	464
1664	193	782	1696	122	428	1728	182	$363\frac{1}{2}$	1760	154	454
1665	War with England, no Ships out.		1697	131	1279	1729	184	$229\frac{1}{3}$	1761	161	$357\frac{1}{2}$
1666			1698	139	$1483\frac{1}{2}$	1730	168	$248\frac{3}{4}$	1762	165	$189\frac{3}{4}$
1667			1699	151	$775\frac{1}{2}$	1731	164	$298\frac{1}{4}$	1763		
1668	155	573	1700	173	$913\frac{5}{6}$	1732	176	$314\frac{1}{6}$	1764	161	224
1669	138	$1013\frac{1}{2}$	1701	208	$2071\frac{1}{2}$	1733	184	$360\frac{1}{4}$	1765	165	477
1670	148	792	1702	224	$687\frac{7}{12}$	1734	186	327	1766	167	$189\frac{1}{3}$
1671	158	$1088\frac{1}{2}$	1703	207	644	1735	185	$496\frac{3}{4}$	1767	165	$179\frac{1}{6}$
1672	War with England, no Ships out.		1704	130	$652\frac{1}{6}$	1736	191	$857\frac{1}{2}$	1768	160	$600\frac{1}{3}$
1673			1705	157	1678	1737	196	$504\frac{1}{2}$	1769	152	1127
1674			1706	151	$966\frac{1}{2}$	1738	195	472	1770	150	523
1675	147	$900\frac{1}{2}$	1707	131	126	1739	192	$728\frac{1}{4}$	1771	150	$143\frac{1}{3}$
1676	145	$812\frac{1}{6}$	1708	122	$533\frac{1}{2}$	1740	187	$665\frac{1}{2}$	1772	131	$768\frac{1}{2}$
1677	145	$785\frac{1}{3}$	1709	126	$192\frac{3}{4}$	1741	178	$312\frac{1}{4}$	1773	134	$444\frac{1}{2}$
1678	120	$1118\frac{1}{4}$	1710	137	62	1742	173	$558\frac{1}{2}$	1774	130	450
1679	126	792	1711	117	631	1743	185	937	1775	129	105
1680	151	1373	1712	108	$373\frac{3}{4}$	1744	187	1494	1776	123	509
1681	175	876	1713	93	$237\frac{1}{2}$	1745	184	$568\frac{3}{4}$	1777	116	$427\frac{1}{4}$
1682	195	1444	1714	108	1291	1746	160	1036	1778	111	$306\frac{1}{2}$
1683	242	$1338\frac{1}{2}$	1715	134	$698\frac{1}{2}$	1747	164	$776\frac{1}{4}$	1779	105	$168\frac{1}{4}$
1684	233	$1153\frac{1}{2}$	1716	153	535	1748	94	$278\frac{1}{6}$	1780	82	476
1685	209	$1283\frac{7}{12}$	1717	179	$392\frac{1}{2}$	1749	157	$610\frac{1}{4}$	1781	War with England, no Ships out.	
1686	189	$664\frac{1}{2}$	1718	139	$280\frac{1}{4}$	1750	158	$590\frac{1}{2}$	1782		
1687	194	$621\frac{1}{2}$	1719	211	346	1751	162	$330\frac{5}{12}$	1783	55	330
1688	214	$340\frac{1}{2}$	1720	228	$455\frac{17}{24}$	1752	159	$546\frac{1}{4}$	1784	62	198
1689	160	$241\frac{1}{8}$	1721	260	$733\frac{2}{3}$	1753	166	$639\frac{5}{8}$	1785	65	300
1690	117	785	1722	254	$1101\frac{1}{2}$	1754	171	$672\frac{11}{12}$	1786	67	476
1691	2	War with France.	1723	233	314	1755	181	$720\frac{1}{2}$	1787	67	$239\frac{1}{2}$
1692	32	$56\frac{1}{2}$	1724	232	358	1756	186	$568\frac{1}{2}$	1788	69	190

N. B. From the Year 1719 are included the STRAIT DAVIS Ships.

A. D. 1781 The number of veſſels which have been employed in the Whale Fiſhery to Davis's Streights and the Greenland Seas, in the preſent year, were 222, meaſuring altogether 65,267 tons; their cargoes conſiſted of 5,989 tons of clean oil; 7,654 tons, 1 cwt. 4 lbs. whale fins; and 13,386 ſeal ſkins.

An account of the quantity of Britiſh Corn exported, and of Foreign Corn imported and exported for the year 1781, as taken from the Cuſtom-houſe books.

		Britiſh, exported.		*Foreign, imported.*			*Foreign, exported.*		
		Qrs.	*Buſh.*	*Qrs.*	*Buſh.*		*Qrs.*	*Buſh.*	
Barley,	—	62,187	4	10,685	2		171	3	
Beans,	—	8,933	0	9,189	7		997	4	
Oats,	—	11,442	7	331,053	3		907	1	
Oatmeal,	—	619	3	2,086	3		——		
Peas,	—	4,520	1	1,091	7		63	0	
Rye,	—	30,929	1	——			——		
Wheat,	—	49,769	1	116,936	4		8,241	4	
				Cwt.	*qrs.*	*lbs.*	*Cwt.*	*qrs.*	*lbs.*
Wheat Flour,	—	24,208	1	25,227	2	18	1,471	1	17
Malt,	—	146,280	0	——			——		

The following are the variations of the public funds during this year, with the higheſt and loweſt prices arranged oppoſite to each month.

	Bank Stock.	*3 per cent. reduc*	*3 per cent. conſol*	*4 per cent. conſol*	*New Ann 1777*	*Long Ann.*	*Short Ann. 1778*	*India Stock.*	*India Ann.*	*India Bonds.*	*South Sea Stock.*	*Old Ann.*	*3 per cent. 1751*	*New Navy Bills*	*5 per cent. Navy.*	*Exchequer Bills.*
January,	160	76⅞	77¼	95⅞	—	22½	13⅞	175	—	89s.	—	75⅜	—	2⅞	115½	28
	158	75½	75⅝	95¾	—	22 7/16	13¾	170½	—	81	—	75¼	—	2	112¼	27
February,	161½	76¾	75¾	96⅞	75⅛	22 15/16	—	172⅛	75¼	85	84½	75⅛	74⅜	2¾	113¾	30
	160¾	76⅛	75⅛	96⅛	74¼	22⅝	—	171	75⅛	84	—	74⅞	—	2¼	112⅝	28
March,	158¾	76⅞	75¼	96⅛	75½	22¾	13¾	170½	74⅞	91	—	76	75¼	1⅞	113⅞	26
	176¾	75⅞	75⅛	96½	74⅛	22¼	—	170	75½	84	—	75¾	—	2	113½	—
April,	176¼	76½	75⅝	95½	74⅝	22⅝	13⅝	175	75½	82	84½	75¾	—	2⅞	113½	—
	172	75⅝	75½	94⅝	74⅜	22⅛	—	174	74⅛	81	—	75¼	—	1⅞	113⅜	—
May,	172¾	75⅝	75½	94⅝	74½	22⅛	13¾	174	74⅛	85	—	75½	75	1⅞	113⅜	—
	172¼	74¾	74⅝	94⅜	74¼	22	—	173¾	73⅞	82	—	75¼	—	—	113	—
June,	172⅛	74½	75½	94½	74⅛	22¾	13¼	173	—	68	—	75½	74¾	2⅛	114	20
	171½	74	74¾	93⅝	74	22	—	171	—	66	—	75¼	—	2	113¼	—
July,	171¾	75	75¼	95½	73⅞	22⅜	13⅝	168¾	74¼	70p.	—	74¼	68	2⅛	112⅜	21 p.
	173	74¾	73⅞	94¾	73½	22¼	13½	——	70⅝	39	—	74⅛	61	2 dif.	111¾	—
Auguſt,	176¾	76⅛	75⅛	96¼	74¼	22⅝	13	169¼	—	75	—	75¼	—	2	114⅛	37
	173½	74¾	73⅞	95⅛	73½	22½	13⅞	168¼	—	40	—	74¼	—	1⅞	112⅜	23
Septemb.	176¾	76¼	75¼	96⅞	74⅝	22½	13⅜	170¼	70	73	83⅛	73⅝	74⅜	2	114	38
	172⅞	74⅜	74⅜	94⅜	73⅝	22	13	169	—	71	—	73¾	73⅞	1⅞	113⅜	—
October,	173⅜	74⅝	75½	94⅝	74⅛	22¼	13⅜	178½	70⅛	78	—	74¼	—	1⅞	114¼	39
	171¼	73⅛	74⅜	92¾	73⅜	21	13¼	168½	69⅛	72	—	72⅝	—	1¾	112⅜	38
Novemb.	173¼	74⅝	75½	94⅝	74⅛	22¼	13¾	170½	70⅛	78	—	74¼	—	1⅞	114⅜	39
	171½	73⅜	74¾	93⅛	73⅜	21	13¼	168½	69⅛	72	—	72⅝	—	1¾	112⅛	38
Decemb.	170½	73⅛	74	93½	—	21⅝	13⅛	166	68½	72	82¼	72⅛	—	1¾	112⅛	31
	169⅛	72⅝	73⅝	92⅝	—	21½	13 1/16	164¾	68¼	70	—	71⅞	—	1⅞	113⅛	28

An account of the chriſtenings and burials within the bills of mortality in London.

Chriſtened, males	9,892	Buried, males	9,962
——— females	9,667	——— females	9,735
	19,559		19,697

G.R. III. BRITISH MUSEUM

APPENDIX.

Although the following Papers were communicated to us at too late a Period to be incorporated with the Work itſelf, we have, notwithſtanding, thought them ſufficiently intereſting to be given in the Form of an Appendix.

COPPER-PLATE ENGRAVINGS.

A CONSIDERABLE article of commerce has ariſen very lately in this country, in a manner ſo rapid, that it is ſomewhat curious to inveſtigate the cauſe of it—we mean that of *engraved Prints.* Foreign prints, particularly the French, were ſo greatly ſuperior to thoſe executed in this country, that immenſe quantities of them were imported either for the port-folio, or for furniture. Mr. Alderman Boydell, the perſon principally concerned in this article of importation, with a public ſpirit and patriotiſm, of which his country has had many proofs, conceived an idea, that if the artiſts of this country were to receive ſuitable encouragement, and have the works of the great maſters put before them, they might equal, if not excel, thoſe of foreign countries. This idea was ſo well founded, that though it was only attempted to be put in execution by him about the year 1760, he was enabled to publiſh, in 1761, the *Niobe*, and ſome others engraved by Woollett, after pictures by Wilſon and Smith. This proved ſuch a ſpecimen of the Engliſh ſchool, as gained the admiration of all Europe, and inſured a favourable reception to his future undertakings, which have indeed been as ſucceſsful as they have been extenſive; witneſs the numerous capital engravings from the great maſters, in the Devonſhire, Houghton, and other collections, lately executed. Such has been the very rapid progreſs of the art of engraving in this country, ſince the period above-mentioned, from the ſpirited conduct and liberal encouragement given to the artiſts by Mr. Boydell, that in the courſe of a few years he has lived to ſee his whole ſyſtem crowned with ſucceſs; inſomuch, that inſtead of all the fine prints ſold in this country being imported from abroad, the exports are now, to the imports, (by the moſt accurate calculation) as five hundred is to one; and theſe exports are not confined to any one country, for they extend from Madrid to Moſcow. It is but juſtice, however, to ſay, that ſo great a change in this channel of commerce, has been greatly aided by the inſtitution of the Royal Academy—An inſtitution which will do laſting honour to his preſent Majeſty—as the young artiſt there, from a contemplation of the elaborate works of genius, acquires a competent knowledge in drawing and deſign,—very eſſential requiſites to attain any degree of excellence in this ſiſter art.

It perhaps may not be thought improper here to mention an undertaking, that promiſes to carry painting, as well as engraving, to the ſummit of perfection in England, eſpecially as it is conducted by the ſame perſon who has already, as we have before ſtated, ſo eſſentially ſerved his country in this line of commerce:—We allude to the magnificent deſign of illuſtrating the principal ſcenes of Shakeſpeare, by near a hundred capital pictures, from which engravings are to be made by the firſt artiſts in this country, for a ſuperb edition of this author's works. Many of theſe pictures are collected together and offered to the public view in a gallery erected for that purpoſe. When we contemplate this deſign, we confeſs we are dazzled by its grandeur; we ſhall, therefore, content ourſelves with uſing the words of an eminent author, Dr. Robertſon, who ſpeaking of the ſubject has ſaid, "That it is an undertaking worthy the magnificence of a great nation, in honour of its favourite author." It is very certain, that no age, nor no country, has ever raiſed ſuch a monument to any author.

But to what lengths the enterprize of men of talents, ſeconded by the confidential aſſiſtance of a liberal public, will go, cannot eaſily be determined. The fine arts in all other countries have been ſupported by devotion, in the execution of endleſs altar-pieces, &c. and by the patronage of great families: but, in this country, commerce ſeems to be doing that, which religion and perſonal patronage could alone effect in foreign nations; and as commerce is the ſubject of our labours, we are happy in giving this additional proof of its importance.

It may not be improper, in this place, to mention the polygraphic invention of Mr. Joſeph Booth, portrait painter, by which paintings in oil colours are copied or multiplied. This art already begins to flouriſh, and promiſes no inconſiderable article to the commerce of this country.

POTTERIES AND EARTHEN WARE.

A manufactory of earthen ware has been carried on at Burſlem in Staffordſhire, and ſome of the neighbouring villages, from time immemorial. It can be traced with certainty for at leaſt two centuries back; of its firſt introduction, no tradition remains: but it has not, till of late years, been of conſequence enough to engage the attention of the public, or to merit the notice of writers upon commerce.

In 1686, as we learn from Dr. Plot's Natural Hiſtory of Staffordſhire, publiſhed in that year, only the coarſe yellow, red, black, and mottled wares, were made in this country; and the only materials employed for them, appear to have been the different coloured clays which are found in the neighbourhood, and which form ſome of the meaſures, or ſtrata of the coal mines. Theſe coarſe clays made the body of the ware, and the glaze was produced by powdered lead ore, ſprinkled on the pieces before firing, with the addition of a little mangane ſe for ſome particular colours. The quantity of goods manufactured, was at that time ſo inconſiderable, that the chief ſale of them, the Doctor ſays, was "to poor crate-men, who carried them on their backs all over the country."

About the year 1690, two ingenious artiſans from Germany, of the name of Eller, ſettled near Burſlem, and carried on a ſmall work for a little time. They brought into this country the method of glazing ſtone ware, by caſting ſalt into the kiln while it is hot, and ſome other improvements of leſs importance; but finding they could not keep their ſecrets to themſelves, they left the place rather in diſguſt.

From this time, various kinds of ſtone ware, glazed by the fumes of ſalt in the manner abovementioned, were added to the wares before made. The white kind, which afterwards became, and for many ſucceeding years continued, the ſtaple branch of pottery, is ſaid to have owed its origin to the following accident. A potter, Mr. Aſtbury, travelling to London, perceived ſomething amiſs with one of his horſe's eyes; an oſtler at Dunſtable ſaid he could ſoon cure him, and for that purpoſe put a common black flint ſtone into the fire. The potter obſerving it, when taken out, to be of a fine white, immediately conceived the idea of improving his ware, by the addition of this material to the

the whiteſt clay he could procure: accordingly he ſent home a quantity of the flint ſtones of that country, where they are plentiful among the chalk, and by mixing them with tobacco-pipe clay, produced a white ſtone ware, much ſuperiour to any that had been ſeen before.

Some of the other potters ſoon diſcovered the ſource of this ſuperiority, and did not fail to follow his example. For a long time they pounded the flint ſtones in private rooms, by manual labour, in mortars; but many of the poor workmen ſuffered ſeverely from the duſt of the flint getting into their lungs, and producing dreadful coughs, conſumptions, and other pulmonary diſorders. Theſe diſaſters, and the increaſed demand for the flint powder, induced them to try to grind it by mills of various conſtructions; and this method, being found both effectual and ſafe, has continued in practice ever ſince.

With theſe improvements, in the beginning of the preſent century, various articles were produced for tea and coffee equipages. Soon after, attempts were made to furniſh the dinner table alſo; and before the middle of the century, utenſils for the table were manufactured in quantity, as well for exportation as home conſumption.

But the ſalt glaze, the only one then in uſe for this purpoſe, is, in its own nature, ſo imperfect; and the potters, from an injudicious competition among themſelves for cheapneſs, rather than excellence, had been ſo inattentive to elegance of form, and neatneſs of workmanſhip, that this ware was rejected from the tables of perſons of rank; and, about the year 1760, a white ware, much more beautiful, and better glazed than ours, began to be imported in conſiderable quantities from France.

This inundation of a foreign manufacture, ſo much ſuperiour to any of our own, muſt have had very bad effects upon the potteries of this kingdom, if a new one, ſtill more to the public taſte, had not appeared ſoon after. In the year 1763, Mr. Joſiah Wedgwood, who had already introduced ſeveral improvements into this art, invented a ſpecies of earthen ware, for the table, quite new in its appearance, covered with a rich and brilliant glaze, bearing ſudden alternations of heat and cold, manufactured with eaſe and expedition, and conſequently cheap; and having every requiſite for the purpoſe intended. To this new manufacture the Queen was pleaſed to give her name and patronage, commanding it to be called *Queen's ware*, and honouring the inventor by appointing him her Majeſty's potter.

To the ſame perſon we owe the invention of the following kinds of earthen ware and porcelain, viz.

I. A *Terra Cotta*, reſembling porphyry, granite, Egyptian pebble, and other beautiful ſtones, of the Siliceous or Cryſtalline order.

II. *Baſaltes*; a fine black porcelain biſqué, of nearly the ſame properties with the natural ſtone; it receives a high poliſh, ſerves as a touchſtone for metals, ſtrikes fire with ſteel, reſiſts all the acids, and bears, without injury, a ſtronger fire than the baſaltes itſelf.

III. *White Porcelain* biſqué, of a ſmooth wax-like ſurface, of the ſame properties with the preceding, except in what depends upon colour.

VI. *Jaſper*; a white porcelain biſqué, of exquiſite beauty and delicacy, poſſeſſing the general properties of the baſaltes, together with that of receiving colours, through its whole ſubſtance, in a manner which no other *body*, ancient or modern, has been known to do: this renders it peculiarly fit for cameos, portraits, and all ſubjects in bas relief, as the ground may be coloured throughout, without paint or enamel, while the raiſed figures are of a pure white.

V. *Bamboo*, or cane-coloured biſqué porcelain, of the ſame nature as No. 3.

VI. A *porcelain biſqué*, remarkable for great *hardneſs*, little inferior to that of agate: this property, together with its reſiſtance to the ſtrongeſt acids and corroſives, and its impenetrability by every known liquid, adapts it for mortars, and many different kinds of chemical veſſels.

Theſe ſix diſtinct ſpecies, together with the Queen's ware already mentioned, expanded into a thouſand different forms, for ornament as well as uſe, variouſly painted and embelliſhed, conſtitute nearly the whole of the preſent fine Engliſh earthen wares and porcelains, which are now become the ſource of an immenſe trade; and which, conſidered as an object of national induſtry and commerce, make one of the moſt important manufactures of the kingdom.

The evidence given by Mr. Wedgwood, to the Committee of Privy Council, and at the Bars of the two Houſes of Parliament, when a commercial arrangement with Ireland was in agitation, in 1785, will ſhew the extent of this manufacture, and its value to our maritime and landed, as well as commercial intereſts. Though the manufacturing part alone gives bread to fifteen or twenty thouſand people, he looks upon this as a ſmall object, when compared with the many others that are put in motion by it, *viz.* The immenſe quantity of *inland carriage* it creates throughout England, both in its raw materials, and finiſhed goods—the great number of people employed in the extenſive *collieries* for its uſe—the ſtill greater numbers employed in *raiſing and preparing the raw materials*, in ſeveral diſtant parts of the kingdom, from near the Land's End, in Cornwall, one way, along different parts of the coaſt, Falmouth, Teignmouth, Exeter, Pool, Graveſend, and the Norfolk coaſt; the other way, to Biddeford, Wales, and the Iriſh coaſt—the *coaſting veſſels*, which being employed, at the proper ſeaſons, in the Newfoundland fiſhery, carry theſe materials coaſtwiſe to Liverpool and Hull, to the amount of many thouſand tons yearly, at times when they would otherwiſe be laid up idle in harbour—the further conveyance from thoſe ports, by *river and canal navigation*, to one of the moſt inland ſituations in the kingdom—and the *reconveyance* of the finiſhed goods to the different ports of this iſland, where they are ſhipped for every foreign market that is open to the earthen wares of England.

He obſerves further, that this manufacture, in a national view, is attended with ſome advantageous circumſtances, almoſt peculiar to itſelf; ſuch as, that the value of the manufactured goods conſiſts almoſt wholly in labour—that one ton of raw materials produces ſeveral tons of finiſhed goods for ſhipping, the freight being then charged, not by the weight, but by the bulk—that ſcarce a veſſel leaves any of our ports, without more or leſs of this cheap, bulky, and therefore valuable article to this maritime country—and, above all, that not leſs than five-ſixths of the whole produce of the potteries are exported to foreign markets.

Conſiderable as this object may now appear, Mr. Wedgwood, in his evidence to the Houſe of Commons, declares himſelf impreſſed with the idea that the art is ſtill but in its infancy, compared with what it may arrive at, if not interrupted in its growth.

By this laſt expreſſion we ſuppoſe he alludes to the introduction of exciſe laws into the potteries, of which there was ſome talk at that time; but it would have been too impolitic a ſtep to check ſo growing a manufacture by exciſe laws, eſpecially when five-ſixths of the duty collected, muſt have been paid back again upon exportation of the goods, and an opening thereby made for frauds, which (if we may judge from what has been practiſed in other articles) would have made the drawbacks amount even to more than the ſums originally collected.

THE COAL TRADE.

The earlieſt account we have of the importation of ſea coals into London, was about the year 1350; and, in the year 1400, the nobility and citizens petitioned the King, "to prohibit the further uſe of ſo noxious and unhealthy a kind of fuel," as they then imagined it to be; and from that period to the preſent, the importation has gradually increaſed.

As an article of commerce, a judgment may be formed of its importance, from the following ſtatement:

Above 500 ſhips, from one to 500 tons, are employed in bringing coals to London, and coaſtways, navigated by many thouſand ſeamen and ſtout boys. The import into London alone, in the courſe of the laſt year (1788) amounted to 766,795 chaldrons, from Newcaſtle, Sunderland, Blyth Nook, Scotland, Wales, and Liverpool.

The duty paid into the Exchequer, on this amazing import to the metropolis, is no leſs a ſum than £306,718, and that without the expence of a ſingle Cuſtom-Houſe Officer on board. The importation of this has exceeded any former year, by at leaſt 5000 chaldrons; and it would have been twenty or 30,000 more, if contrary winds had not prevailed in November, and the froſt ſet in ſo early in December.

A century ago, this trade was very inconſiderable to what it is at preſent, as the number of inhabitants in the different ſea-port towns, and the metropolis, were fewer, and the various manufactures requiring conſtant ſupplies of this commodity, leſs extenſive and numerous. At that period the maſters of veſſels, employed in the London trade, uſed to frequent a place in Lower Thames-ſtreet, called Room Land, adjoining to Billingſgate, where they met very early in the morning, and diſpoſed of their coals. In proceſs of time, this mode was found very inconvenient; and as ſeveral perſons, who kept lighters and barges, had directions from their employers, the Captains rather choſe to diſpoſe of their cargoes entire, at once, to the lightermen, than retail them in ſmall quantities, allowing them a ſmall diſcount for prompt payment; by which means they were enabled to fix one certain price for the whole cargo, and get their ſhips unloaded in a ſhorter ſpace of time. But, in order to produce this regulation, an intermediate perſon was appointed, who was formerly called a coal crimp, or more properly a broker, or factor, to whom the ſhip's loading was regularly conſigned, who was to ſell the cargo, give ſecurity, and pay the duties at the Cuſtom-Houſe, collect the amount of ſales from the buyers, and ſettle with the owners. The ſame kind of method is obſerved in the North, by the owners of the collieries, who appoint a perſon, called a fitter, to vend their coals to the ſhip owners, who take the riſque of the voyage, both of ſhip and cargo, unleſs they are freighted on account of ſome other perſon, which is ſometimes the caſe. This is now the invariable method purſued in the conduct of the Coal Trade. Early in the preſent century various complaints had been made to Parliament, of combinations, both in the North, and in London, from jealouſies having ariſen among the coal owners in the North, and competitors in mines; and at London among the ſmaller dealers, who wiſhed, inſtead of buying them at ſecond hand, to have them from the ſhips. Theſe complaints aroſe, in the firſt inſtance, from perſons, who were proprietors of collieries of an inferior repute, having prevailed upon the London principal dealers, by pecuniary inducements, to get their coals vended at the London market, in preference to others. This operated, for a time, to their intereſt; but others, who did not think fit to obſerve the ſame rule, applied to Parliament to put a ſtop to that undue preference; and an act was paſſed, by which the

donor

donor or acceptor of any gratuity became liable to a penalty of 50l. This, however, had only a temporary effect, and occaſioned a ſecond complaint, and a further reſtriction of 500l. penalty on tranſgreſſing the act. But even this did not remedy the evil; which has, by degrees, induced the coal owners at large, with only one or two exceptions, to allow a premium to the principal buyers, at the London market, which has varied from 6d. to 1s. per chaldron, according to their reſpective opinions of the neceſſity of doing it. In that ſtate the trade has continued till the laſt year. Several acts of Parliament have likewiſe paſſed to regulate the ſhipping, in the North, and their delivery at London. The irregularities complained of in the North aroſe from particular partialities being ſhewn in point of loading; for many of the fitters having become men of ſuch opulence as to engage deeply in ſhipping, they were too apt to give ſuch ſhips as they were concerned in an unfair preference. The general body of ſhip owners, therefore, got an act to regulate the turn of loading, by which means every ſhip was loaded as ſhe applied in a fair turn. To prevent any combinations at the London market, an act was paſſed to prevent any number of ſhips laying above fourteen days, after their entry at the London port, whoſe cargoes were unſold; by which means no Captains have it in their power to refuſe a fair market price. But theſe acts of Parliament, after the firſt impreſſion of them had been ſomewhat obliterated, were frequently diſregarded; and the coal dealers forgot, or at leaſt grew careleſs of acts which were but ſeldom enforced with vigour. This occaſioned, of late years, a want of that caution among the dealers, which had at firſt been obſerved, ſo that they received gratuities in too open a manner. As informers will always be on the watch, it happened that, in the year 1787, ſome needy people, who had failed in that trade, took advantage of the penal ſtatute, and having obtained proofs of the actual receipts of premiums, by moſt of the principal dealers, inſtituted ſuits againſt them on the acts of Parliament; and one having been tried, which only failed from an error of its being wrong worded, the whole trade took the alarm, and applied to Parliament to paſs an act of oblivion, ſtating its ancient uſage, and the motives of the perſons who had occaſioned the application. The petition was referred to a Committee, who examined evidence on both ſides, and an act of oblivion was paſſed, for all former cauſes of actions, on the trade ſatisfying the perſons who had already brought thoſe actions; which they did, at a conſiderable expence.

COAL TAR.

The manufacture of Coal Tar, for which a prolonged patent has been granted, by act of Parliament, to the Earl of Dundonald, is already become a conſiderable commercial article. Its ſucceſsful application, as a preſervative to ſhip's bottoms, iron work, ſheds, barns, and all kinds of fences, gives it the promiſe, not only of general conſumption at home, but of great demand abroad.

CAST PLATE GLASS.

An extenſive manufactory of this elegant and valuable branch of commerce, was firſt eſtabliſhed in Lancaſhire, about the year 1773, through the ſpirited exertions of a very reſpectable body of proprietors, who were incorporated by an act of Parliament. From thoſe various difficulties conſtantly attendant upon new undertakings, when they have to contend with powerful foreign eſtabliſhments, it was for ſome time conſiderably embarraſſed; but Government, of late, having taken off ſome reſtrictions that bore hard upon it, and made ſome judicious regulations relative to the mode of levying the Exciſe duty, it now bids fair to rival, if not ſurpaſs, the moſt celebrated Continental manufactures, both with reſpect to the quality, brilliancy, and ſize of its productions.

PAISLEY MANUFACTORY.

Paiſley was erected into a burgh, or barony, by James the IVth. of Scotland, 1488, and enjoys all the powers neceſſary for government and police, without any of the burthens to which Royal burghs are ſubjected. The freedom of the place is conferred on very moderate terms; and, though the revenues of it are not great, they have been managed to the beſt advantage. As the extenſive manufactures carried on at this town, and places adjacent, are valuable acquiſitions to the country, they will naturally excite the attention of all who conſider manufactures to be the chief pillars of our national proſperity.

The branches of manufactures carried on at Paiſley, are the linen, the thread, the ſilk, and the cotton. The manufacture of linen, and linen mixed with cotton, was begun before the union of the two nations; but, at that time, was very inconſiderable. A few looms were employed in weaving muſlins; but this trade was ſoon annihilated by the introduction of foreign muſlins. It is a curious circumſtance that, after they were obliged to abandon this fabric for eighty years, the progreſs of the manufacturing arts is ſo far advanced, that they have now, with great probability of ſucceſs, commenced a rivalſhip with the weavers of Indoſtan, where that fabric has been manufactured for ages.

Their next attempt was weaving ſtriped linens, which they named Bengals, and were an imitation of cotton, but made of linen and cotton yarn. At this time, a trade with England being opened, a conſiderable trade of check handkerchiefs was carried on, for ſeveral years, with advantage. To this ſucceeded plain, ſtriped, ſpotted, and figured lawns, and bordered handkerchiefs. After this, plain and figured thread gauze was added to the other fabrics. Theſe light fancy articles tended to excite the ingenuity and taſte of the artiſts; ſo that goods, of various patterns, were now made, and their ſucceſs in invention and workmanſhip was conſiderable. The Paiſley manufactures were now in demand, both in the home and the foreign markets, and a foundation was laid for that extenſive buſineſs, to which they have ſince attained. In order to aſcertain the progreſs of this branch, we here ſubjoin an abſtract account from the Stamp Maſter's books, who made a report yearly, upon oath, to the Honourable Board of Truſtees for fiſheries and manufactures, &c.

			Yards.		£.	s.	d.
1ſt Nov. 1743	to ditto	1744	353,407	Value	15,886	15	10
1747	—	1748	413,660	——	23,671	19	7
1757	—	1758	649,998	——	43,665	8	11
1767	—	1768	529,022	——	54,664	12	11½
1783	—	1784	1,922,020	——	164,385	16	6½

The manufacture of thread was firſt attempted, in this country, by Mrs. Millar, of Bargarran, in 1722, on having received ſome information and machinery from Holland. Her example was immediately followed by ſeveral families in Paiſley. They imitated that ſpecies, called Nuns, or ounce thread, which is made up in hanks of forty threads, and reeled upon reels a yard in circumference. This manufacture ſucceeded equally well with the lawns and gauzes, and has arrived at an high degree of perfection. But after being once eſtabliſhed, and the profits reduced to a moderate quantum, methods were adopted by ſome to encreaſe theſe profits, which were neither honourable, nor, in the reſult, advantageous, by putting thirty threads in the hank, inſtead of forty; but when the thirty threads became perfectly known in the market, twenty-eight were ſubſtituted by ſome, inſtead of thirty, and thirty-four or thirty-five inches in length, inſtead of thirty-ſix. Frauds were arrived to ſuch an height, that it became highly neceſſary to make application to Parliament, to remedy this growing evil, and prevent the ruin of this valuable manufactory.

The different ſpecies of threads made at Paiſley, and in its neighbourhood, were nuns or ounce thread, Liſle or dozen thread, flouriſhing cotton for embroidering, India cotton for flowering, and Ware thread.

The number of machines employed in twining thread, at Paiſley, in 1784, was not under 120.—Each machine, upon an average, will twine, of yarn, 2400 ſpindles; the whole of which makes 288,000.—Theſe ſpindles of thread, valued at 4s. 6d. when manufactured, amount to 64,000l.

Now that we are upon the ſubject, it may not be amiſs to obſerve, that from a general ſtatement of the thread, manufactured in Scotland, in 1784, to which year this branch had gradually encreaſed, it appears, that the number of machines employed were at leaſt five hundred, two hundred of which were employed in twining ounce threads, of every different ſpecies included under this denomination; and conſume, upon an average, 2400 ſpindles of yarn each, which amount to 480,000.—Theſe ſpindles, at 4s. 6d. when manufactured into thread, amount to 108,000l.

Three hundred machines, employed in twining, ſtitching, or pound threads, white, coloured, and Oſnaburgh, will conſume 2000 ſpindles each, which make 600,000.—Theſe ſpindles, at 3s. 9d. when manufactured, amount to 112,000l.

Total value, 220,000l.——Total ſpindles, 1,080,000.

This manufacture, in performing all the various operations, from the ſpinning of the flax to the finiſhing of the thread, employs upwards of 20,000 women, beſides 4000 or 5000 men.

The ſilk gauze manufacture was begun at Paiſley, in 1759. The ſimilarity betwixt thread gauze and ſilk gauze accelerated the progreſs of this branch. The weavers found no great difficulty in imitating the Spital-fields fabrics; and the manufacturer found it his intereſt to puſh a buſineſs ſo favourably ſituated for cheapneſs of labour, compared with the metropolis of Great-Britain. A company, from London, eſtabliſhed a warehouſe for that branch, in 1761; and ſeveral others ſoon after, compoſed of partners; ſome at Paiſley, and others in London. This new manufacture gave ſufficient room for the diſplay of taſte and genius in contriving new patterns. In this they ſucceeded beyond all expectation. Paiſley ſilk gauzes became the faſhionable wear through all the polite circles in Europe. The Spital-fields manufacturers were excelled, and the Britiſh gauzes were preferred at Paris, in oppoſition to all the exertions of the French manufacturers, by whom theſe fabrics were originally invented. At length, his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty publiſhed an arret, prohibiting the importation of them, under the ſevereſt penalties. The immediate effect of which, however, has been done away, by the Treaty of Commerce between Great-Britain and France, as gauzes, of all kinds, are admitted into that country, on a duty of ten per cent. ad valorem.

The number of weavers employed, in the ſilk gauze fabrication, are not under	5,000
And the winders, warpers, clippers, draw-boys, and others, neceſſary in the various parts of the ſilk manufactory,	5,000
	10,000
	£
Suppoſe theſe ten thouſand workmen, at an average, to earn 5s. per week, the ſum paid for wages will be, per ann.	130,000
Every ſilk loom produces an annual average value of 70l. the amount of which is	350,000

The

The Value of Paiſley Manufactures, for 1784.

	£.	s.	d.
Silk gauzes, — — — —	350,000	0	0
Lawns and thread gauze, — —	164,385	16	6½
Thread, — — — —	64,800	0	0
Total	575,185	16	6½

The Number of People employed.

Lawn branch.—Weavers, — — —	2,400
Spinners, — — — — —	7,384
Winders, warpers, clippers, &c. — — —	1,000
Overſeers, — — — — —	100
Makers of machinery and implements, — —	800
Total	11,684
Thread.—Spinners, winders, bleachers, twiners, &c.	4,800
Silk-weavers, — — — — —	5,000
Winders, warpers, clippers, &c. — — —	5,000
Total	26,484

That we may diſcover of what importance theſe manufactures are to this country, it is proper to point out what part of the value is the produce of labour, and what part is imported from foreign countries.

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
The lawns,—Groſs value, — —							164,385	16	6½
Deduct for foreign yarn, Iriſh included, —				21,600	0	0			
Ditto for linſeed and foreign aſhes, —				1,785	16	6½			
							23,385	16	6½
Remains							141,000	0	0
The thread,—Groſs value, —				64,800	0	0			
Deduct for yarn, foreign and Iriſh,	600	0	0						
Ditto for foreign linſeed and aſhes,	580	0	0						
				1,180	0	0			
Remains							63,620	0	0
Silk gauze,—Wages paid, — — — —							130,000	0	0
Profits, at 10l. per cent. including charges of merchandize, —							35,000	0	0
Total							369,620	0	0

Some years previous to this period, an event happened which portended a conſiderable revolution in the manufactures of Great-Britain. This was the invention of Mr. Arkwright's celebrated machine, which is ſo aptly conſtructed, and ſo judiciouſly planned, that with one great water wheel, above 4000 threads of cotton yarn are ſpun at once, of which the fineſt muſlins are manufactured. This, with the invention of jennies for ſpinning woofs, encouraged the manufacturers, both of South and North Britain, to attempt the various fabrics of cotton goods, with great probability of ſucceſs. Such powerful means of accelerating labour, and, at the ſame time, producing yarn more perfect in quality, had the effect of reducing the prices of manufactured cottons. This great acquiſition operated likewiſe upon the faſhions. Cottons were ſubſtituted in part for linens, woollens, and even ſilks. Thence it became neceſſary for the manufacturers at Paiſley, again to attempt the fabric of muſlins.

In 1785, they engaged in this branch, and are now carrying it on to a conſiderable extent. The difficulties attending every new fabric are many; the minutiæ in the progreſs of various operations are at firſt but imperfectly underſtood. There is one encouraging circumſtance, however, that they have not only great advantages from the machinery invented, which is ſuperior to every other country, but alſo the weavers perform their operations better than the Aſiatics. Yet, after all the exertions made, and the vaſt ſums expended upon machinery, buildings, materials, &c. the East-India Company have it in their power, by a great importation of muſlins, to involve thouſands of induſtrious Britiſh ſubjects in diſtreſs and ruin. This appears evident from what happened in 1787, the conſequence of which we have already noticed under that year. This circumſtance attracted the attention of the Legiſlature, as ſome limitation appeared abſolutely neceſſary, with reſpect to the importation of foreign muſlins. Were the Eaſt India Company to import the raw material, which is of a finer quality than what is produced on the Britiſh Weſt India Iſlands, ſuch a ſtep would be productive of the moſt ſalutary conſequences to the home manufactures of this country. But, if cotton wool will not pay the expence of ſuch a long navigation, with a profit to the importers, then, in that caſe, if no foreign muſlins were permitted to be imported, under 5s. the yard, 36 inches broad, and 7s. 6d. ſix-quarters broad, this would give ſtability to the coarſer fabrics, and ſecurity to the manufacturers in employing the capitals upon this extenſive field.

The Parliament, in 1743, enacted, that a bounty of one penny ſhould be given for every yard of Britiſh and Iriſh linens, made of hemp or flax, of the value of 6d. per yard, and not exceeding 1s. per yard, and of one halfpenny for every yard under the value of 6d. per yard, which ſhall be exported out of Great-Britain to Africa, America, Portugal, and Spain; and was afterwards extended to all linens of the value of 1s. 6d. per yard. Thoſe bounties were, no doubt, very favourable to the linen trade of Scotland and Ireland; and a continuation of that national encouragement to Britiſh-made linens may be highly proper: but for what cauſe Great-Britain will continue to give to Ireland from 50 to 70,000l. a year of bounties upon their linens, is difficult to perceive. It is neceſſary here to ſtate a few facts, from which it may be determined, whether it be not the intereſt of Great-Britain to exclude the Iriſh from that bounty, until a more liberal interchange of manufactures is eſtabliſhed.

Previous to the year 1759, all goods, made chiefly of linen-yarn, with a ſmall mixture of cotton, were admitted into Ireland, duty free; but, after that period, ſuch goods were conſidered as unrated merchandize, and charged with a duty of 10l. per cent.

In the year 1779, the Iriſh acts of Parliament of the 14th and 15th of Charles II. laying a duty of 5s. per dozen, on fine needle-wrought handkerchiefs of Holland, were conſtrued to extend to a coarſe article, called Kenting handkerchiefs, ſent at that time in conſiderable quantities from Paiſley, and its neighbourhood, to Ireland, at the low average price of 12s. per dozen. Conſequently, from paying nothing previous to 1759, and 10l. per cent. after that period, the duty was advanced to about 40l. per cent. *ad valorem*.

Threads which are wholly made of linen yarn, by a ſingular mode of management, are rated at 5s. per lb. from No. 4 to 20, when the medium value is not above 3s. and pay 10l. per cent. upon that rate; from No. 20 to 40 they are rated at 15s. per lb. notwithſtanding the medium value is not above 8s. thus, inſtead of a 10l. per cent. duty, they are charged about 17½ per cent. *ad valorem*. But, what is more ſingular, the importer is obliged to make oath, that his threads are of that value at which they are rated, before he can obtain a clearance from the Cuſtom-houſe.

In the year 1781, the ſame conſtruction of the acts of the 14th and 15th of Charles II. was extended to ſilk gauze handkerchiefs, upon which the duty was advanced from about 1s. 10d. to 5s. per dozen, making nearly 50l. per cent. on the average value of that ſpecies of goods conſumed in the Iriſh market.

In like manner, printed handkerchiefs pay 5s. per dozen, equal to about 30l. per cent. on the medium qualities uſually conſumed in Ireland; and, in addition to this duty, 6d. per yard is charged upon all muſlins, or cotton handkerchiefs, or neck-kerchiefs, extending to a duty of 40l. per cent. *ad valorem*.

After all theſe prohibitory duties, Great Britain, by an act of liberal conduct, admitted the Iriſh manufacturers to a participation of all her markets in the colonies. But will it now be deemed ſound policy to continue this high bounty upon Iriſh-made linens, unleſs the ſiſter-kingdom conſent to a more equitable arrangement in the interchange of manufactures? Was this bounty given excluſively to Britiſh-made linens, in preference to Iriſh, this circumſtance would call forth the activity of thouſands in the north of Scotland, who are far from being fully employed.

Beſides the general manufactures already ſtated, there are ſeveral other works eſtabliſhed here, for making hard and ſoft ſoap, and candles, to the extent of about 30,000l. per ann. This, added to the former amount of value, makes in the whole 609,185l. 16s. 6½d. There is a conſiderable quantity of theſe articles exported, beſides what is neceſſary for home conſumption; and it is ſuppoſed they are excelled by none in Great-Britain, in point of quality. In 1781, the number of families, in the town and pariſh, was exactly taken; they amounted to 4170; to that allowing five to each family, the inhabitants amounted to 20,850. A conſiderable addition, ſince that time, has been made to the town.

The river Cart, which divides the old from the new town, mixes with the Clyde, three miles from the landing-place, and is capable of being greatly improved. Veſſels of thirty tons, and upwards, navigate this river, at this time; but, were the obſtructions removed, veſſels, from 50 to 70 tons burden, might ſail with the tide in ſafety. What renders this navigation of great importance is, that, as the great canal is now completed to the Clyde, a communication by water is opened to the Eaſtern coaſts of Britain, to Holland, France, Germany, &c.

MECHANICAL INVENTIONS.

A very dextrous mechanic, Mr. Richard March, of London, has invented a variety of machines, chiefly for facilitating and improving the cloth and ſtocking manufactures: moſt of them are ſaid to be uſeful; they have all, at leaſt, ingenuity to recommend them to attention.

The firſt is a Machine, to be applied to a ſtocking frame, for knotting the common ſtocking works, which is done by means of knotting hooks, one to each needle, on which hooks the loops are brought; and, without taking the loops off the needles, the hooks, by moving one ſide of each loop round the heads of the needles, and by forcing it on the next needle to that on which it is formed,

formed, knots the work; and, by this ſimple method being repeated, complete work is formed, in a variety almoſt unlimited. The ſuperiority acquired by this mode of operation, over the common frame-work, lies chiefly in its not being liable to run, when cut or torn, having a beautiful ſattin appearance, and being very elaſtic. It is now become a ſtaple article, and gives employ to ſeveral hundreds of men, women, and children.

The ſecond invention is a Machine, to be added to a ſtocking frame, to work a warp, commonly made uſe of in the loom for weaving, or a thread to every needle, by which means a very great variety of fancy-work, in ſilk, worſted, cotton, and thread, is made, in ſmooth work and in velvet, part cut, or cut all over.

The third is a Machine, to ſpin wool, &c. This machine, though not more than fifteen inches diameter, and five wide, ſpins wool to any degree of fineneſs, and may be regulated for that purpoſe, as well as to give any certain number of twiſts in an inch of yarn ſpun. The bobin that receives the yarn as it is ſpun, has an horizontal and perpendicular motion; and the thread is placed on it compleatly even, by means of a guide, that is moved by a retrogade motion. Some hundreds of theſe machines were ſet at work, near Barnſtaple, in Devonſhire, where ſome extenſive buildings were erected for that purpoſe: but theſe works having been of late ſhut up, and become a matter of litigation, we are neceſſitated to leave our readers unſatisfied reſpecting the deciſive merits of an invention, which points to an improvement of the firſt magnitude.

A Machine to wind croſs-reeled, or Portee Eaſt-India cotton yarn, a ſkein of which meaſures from ten to twenty yards, and is croſſed from ſixteen to twenty times. By this invention, yarn that coſt from 2s. 6d. to 8s. 6d. per pound winding, is now ſaid to be wound for leſs than one-fourth of the expence.

A Machine, to double and twiſt any number of threads together, and give any number of twiſts in each inch.

The following inventions, by the ſame perſon, are very ingenious:—A Machine, to write on two ſheets of paper the ſame words on each ſheet, without copying, ſo as to produce two originals in the ſame time that one is executed.

A Machine, to be applied to a boat, or veſſel, at ſea, by means of which it will ſail in a calm.

An horizontal Windmill. The ſimplicity of this invention is now pretty well known to the mechanical world. It conſiſts of an upright ſhaft, on the top of which is a cap, ſimilar to an umbrella, in the ſides of which are fixed five cocks, at equal diſtances; in each is placed an oar; the axis, at the end of the oar, turns in the upright ſhaft; the cap ſupports the oars, by means of the cocks; on that part of the oar under the cap, is fixed two croſs pieces, called ſtriking pins; on the ridge of any building is fixed, horizontally, a round traverſing board, with a hole in the center, to contain the upright ſhaft; in the hole of this board is fixed a tube, or ſocket, round which the vane and vane-board move, as the wind directs; under the vane-board are three rollers, at equal diſtances, which run on the traverſing board, at the pleaſure of the wind; on the upper ſide of the vane-board is fixed two half-hoops, or circles, againſt the ends of which the pins of the oars ſtrike, to turn them to take the wind.

A Candleſtick and Snuffers. The property of the candleſtick is this; it will burn out the wick and tallow entire, without waſte of either. The ſnuffers are ſo contrived, that they do not ſnuff the candle too low, or ſnuff it out, unleſs ſo deſigned; nor drop the ſnuff on the candle.

A cheap and ſimple application to all wheel carriages, to prevent them from being overturned.

Some

Some years ſince, a Mr. John Kendrew, of Darlington, in the county of Durham, invented a machine, to go by water, which can, at the ſame time, grind and poliſh any number of optical glaſſes, and of any ſize. The above machine is now at work at Darlington.

The ſaid J. Kendrew, with Thomas Porthouſe, of the ſame place, a watchmaker, hath alſo invented a machine, or water-mill, for ſpinning of yarn from hemp, flax, tow, and wool.

There are two other ſpinning-mills now employed within five miles of Darlington, beſides ſeveral in other parts, under licences from the patentees.

A Mill, for the purpoſe of ſpinning worſted, invented and eſtabliſhed by Mr. William Toplis, of Cuckney, near Mansfield, Nottinghamſhire, is now employed, with the greateſt ſucceſs, in that uſeful branch of manufacture.

REFORM AND IMPROVEMENT

OF THE

GENERAL POST-OFFICE.

Among the many aids which have been given to commerce and public convenience, during the preſent century, there is not one which deſerves better of the nation, and has a more juſt title to a place in this work, than the reformation which has been made in the adminiſtration of the Poſt-Office, by John Palmer, Eſquire, the Comptroller General of it. Some general ideas of the reform which has ſince taken place, were firſt ſuggeſted to Mr. Pitt, in the Autumn of 1782; and, in the beginning of the following year, a plan was given in to him. After having maturely conſidered it, the miniſter determined that it ſhould undergo a trial. This original plan, which, though it has ſince been greatly improved, contains all the principles of the undertaking, and in its preſent ſtate of perfection, is a curious and intereſting memoir. In order to give our readers a general outline of this extenſive undertaking, we have made ſuch ſelections from the plan preſented by Mr. Palmer to Mr. Pitt, in 1783, as will be ſufficient for that purpoſe.

"The poſt, at preſent," ſays Mr. Palmer, "inſtead of being the ſwifteſt, is almoſt the ſloweſt conveyance in this country; and though, from the great improvement in our roads, other carriers have proportionably mended their ſpeed, the poſt is as ſlow as ever. It is likewiſe very unſafe, as the frequent robberies of it teſtify; and, to avoid a loſs of this nature, people generally cut bank bills, or bills at ſight, in two, and ſend the parts by different poſts.

"The Poſtmaſters General lately advertiſed directions to the public, how to divide a bill, in ſuch a manner as to prevent its being of any uſe to the robber. Rewards have alſo been frequently offered by him for the beſt conſtructed mail cart, on ſome plan, to prevent the frequent robbery of the mail, but without effect. Indeed, it is at preſent generally entruſted to ſome idle boy, without character, mounted on a worn-out hack; and who, ſo far from being able to defend himſelf, or eſcape from a robber, is much more likely to be in league with him.

"The poſt ſhould certainly be as ſafe and expeditious as any other regular ſtage in the kingdom; for, till it is ſo, whatever penalties are held out to coachmen, carrying parcels, the public, as their convenience

convenience directs, will ſend by the ſafeſt and moſt expeditious conveyance, to the very great loſs of the revenue of the Poſt-Office.

" The compariſon betwixt the poſt and the diligences, from Bath to London, will pretty nearly ſerve for the whole kingdom. The diligence that ſets out from Bath, at four or five on Monday afternoon, will deliver a letter about ten on Tueſday morning, while the poſt that leaves the ſame place at ten or eleven on Monday night, does not deliver a letter till two or three on Wedneſday afternoon, and frequently much later. Nothing, therefore, prevents the poſt from loſing the conveyance of many more letters than it does at preſent, but the cheapneſs of the carriage, when compared with that of the diligence. By the poſt a letter coſts only four-pence; and by the diligence, booking, carriage and porterage, will make the charge amount to about two ſhillings; nevertheleſs, many perſons, both at Bath and Briſtol, ſend by the latter; and indeed, throughout the kingdom, every letter, to which expedition is neceſſary, is now ſent by diligences, where they are eſtabliſhed. It is, therefore, adviſed to contract with the maſters of theſe diligences, to carry the mail, and a guard to protect it; and this, it is preſumed, may be done by them not only better, but as cheap as the preſent method, which in general is three-pence per mile for the boy and horſe. The diligences ſhould go at the rate of eight or nine miles an hour; ſo that, allowing a quarter of an hour to change the horſes, and for each Poſtmaſter to change the bags, the mail will be conveyed from Bath to London in ſixteen hours. Beſides, theſe machines would have a recommendation above all others, both for paſſengers and parcels, as they would be punctual to time, and be protected by a guard, which muſt prove an additional motive for the maſters to contract the cheaper with Government.

" Diligences are now eſtabliſhed from almoſt every town in the kingdom to London, and in many cities and capital towns where the croſs-poſt communicates, as from Bath and Briſtol to Birmingham, Liverpool, Cheſter, Oxford, Exeter, Plymouth, Portſmouth, &c. which would be a great benefit to the croſs poſts; and in many places, where they are not yet eſtabliſhed, a contract for the mail might induce people to do it.

" If the diligence was free of turnpikes, it would be a great ſaving to Government, and a very trifling tax on tolls, which, for a carriage and pair, from Bath to London, is about nine ſhillings, and a carriage and four, eighteen, it would be ſo much towards payment of the carriage of the mail; and, taken all through the kingdom, muſt amount to a very large ſum annually.

" It is certainly a very great hardſhip on individuals, that they are liable to an heavy penalty on ſending letters by diligences, &c. as they may go out at an hour when the poſt does not, and at a time when a letter requires diſpatch; yet ſeveral pounds muſt be paid for an expreſs, or a ſervant ſent poſt to do what may be done much better, for half a crown, by the coach. All that Government wants is to ſecure the poſtage of any letter, not ſent with parcels of goods, or by private hands. The great object, therefore, muſt be to carry cheaper, ſafer and ſwifter, than any other carrier, and that will ſecure the buſineſs to the Poſt-Office better than any penalties whatever.

" The Poſtmaſter of every town muſt know the exact time the mail ſhould arrive, and either himſelf, or ſervant, be ready at the inn, where the horſes change, with his packet of letters, to put in the general bag, and to take out thoſe brought for him. He muſt be very inexpert indeed, if he cannot change his packets, as ſoon as the oſtler does his horſes. If he is not ready, the diligence by no means to wait. If, on enquiry, the ſalaries of officers are not proportioned to the truſt and duty, Government will undoubtedly advance them, but no more keep a negligent ſervant, in a department of the Poſt-Office, than in the Exciſe.

As

"As the hours of ſending off the mails, from every office in the kingdom, are ſettled to accommodate the General Poſt-Office, by the propoſed alterations they may, perhaps, be changed in moſt places: to ſome the alteration may prove convenient, to others inconvenient; yet, at the very worſt, the conſideration, that the letter, which may be ſent on the morrow, will arrive at the place to which it is directed, as ſoon as one now ſent to day, will far overballance it.

"A Committee of Gentlemen, Merchants, &c. in each town, might, perhaps, ſuggeſt a better method of regulating the poſt, for their own diſtrict, than perſons always employed in the office, in London. Some intelligent out-riders, who travel for orders to the different parts of the kingdom, and have experienced inconvenience in their correſpondence, would be likely to furniſh very uſeful information, which the office ſhould not fail to encourage from every quarter. Where new roads are continually forming, and manufacturing villages growing into large towns, the poſt of ſuch a country muſt be liable to continual variation, and open to great improvement.

"It may be adviſeable to conſult with the Merchants, &c. in London, how far it may be proper for the General Office to ſhut at ſeven or eight in the evening. The Change being ſhut up at three, and the Banker's ſhops at ſix, the buſineſs would be much better done than at twelve at night, or one or two in the morning, and cheaper to Government. On examination, perhaps, it may be ſo regulated, that the letters may be delivered ſo much earlier than they are at preſent, as to leave full as much time, after the receipt of the letter, to anſwer it, as there is now, though the poſt would go out earlier The encreaſed expedition of the poſt would alſo allow for the miſſing a day. Indeed, an early hour, at the office, would occaſion earlier hours for the diſpatch of buſineſs that is to be communicated by it.

"It is preſumed that, by theſe, and other improvements which may be made, letters might be delivered in nearly half the time they now are, from many parts of the kingdom; and, as the public pay an additional tax with leſs reluctance, when it is grounded on great improvement and convenience, the poſtage might be advanced in the proportion of ſix-pence for four-pence, but double and treble letters in a ſmaller degree; for, as the diligence can carry any weight of letters, every encouragement ſhould be given to ſend ſmall packets by the poſt; and, as Government would pay about three-halfpence a pound, for one hundred miles, the public ſhould not be made to pay one ſhilling and four-pence by the ounce.

"By the act of 1765, the poſtage of a ſingle letter, which uſed to be three-pence for any diſtance under eighty miles, was altered to one penny for one ſtage, and two-pence for two ſtages, under the idea that, by doing it ſo cheap, Government would have the great number of letters, ſent by carriers, &c. in preference to them, not conſidering that they were ſent for expedition, not for cheapneſs. By the preſent regulation of the prices of poſtage, from the General Poſt-Office, a ſingle letter is a penny for one ſtage, two-pence for two ſtages; any diſtance beyond that, and not exceeding eighty miles, three pence. From eighty miles to any part of England be the diſtance what it may, even Berwick-upon-Tweed, which is three hundred miles, only four-pence; ſo that, beyond eighty miles, there is no ſort of proportion kept between the diſtance and the charge, though to Edinburgh the charge is ſix-pence. Letters, which paſs through London, are charged the poſtage to London, and from thence to the place of its deſtination.

"The American charge ſeems to be on a better plan than that in England, viz. For a ſingle letter, above ſixty miles, four-pence; above one hundred, ſix-pence; above two hundred, eight-pence; not above three hundred, ten-pence, &c. Suppoſe the charges, in future, were at the following rates, throughout Great-Britain, viz. A ſingle letter, not exceeding twenty miles, two-pence; forty,

forty, three-pence; ſixty, four-pence; eighty, five-pence; one hundred, ſix-pence; and after that an additional halfpenny, on every twenty miles, to and from any part, whether the letter paſſes through London, or not.

"The groſs receipt of the Poſt Office annually, from the time it was firſt eſtabliſhed in the reign of Charles II. to the act paſſed by Queen Anne for its improvement, gradually increaſed to 111,461l. and is now ſuppoſed to be about 500,000l.

"From the propoſed and other improvements, the revenue would not only be increaſed to a very conſiderable amount, but the public be better accommodated. Some regulation might alſo be adopted with reſpect to the privilege of franking. Perhaps, the beſt check on abuſes in this particular, would be to oblige the members of Parliament to write the day of the month and year on the frank, and to charge the letter if not ſent to the office the day it is ſo dated.

"Poſtage is really no tax, but a fair and reaſonable price for ſo much labour, which Government, by its monopoly, is enabled to do cheaper than any individuals, and ſhould do with greater expedition and ſafety, or ſubmit to the loſs of the public's employing other carriers in preference to theirs."

This plan, which has ſince been adopted, in its material points, with ſo much ſucceſs, was neceſſarily delayed by the changes which took place in the adminiſtration of the country. Though it ſhould be mentioned, to the honour of Mr. Palmer, that his ſcheme of reformation was approved by all parties, and that the ſeveral Miniſters, as they ſucceeded each other, gave every proper encouragement to him. The difficulty he found in executing his plan did not proceed from Government, but from the Poſt Office; from whence, indeed, he experienced a degree of oppoſition which it is not our buſineſs to mention in the detail, and on which we ſhall only obſerve, that it does not appear, upon the moſt favourable examination, to be reconcileable to any principle of common ſenſe, policy, or integrity. At length, however, the ability, ingenuity, and indefatigable ſpirit of the preſent Comptroller General, under the protecting wiſdom of the preſent Miniſter, has brought this undertaking to a very high degree of perfection, and has given an example of public œconomics which never before exiſted in this or any other country.

Of the preſent ſtate of this moſt uſeful undertaking we may obſerve from the beſt information, that Mr. Palmer has more than fulfilled every engagement he made with government. The contracts for the conveyance of the mails are made at 20,000l. per annum leſs than was originally agreed for;—the acceleration and extenſion of the poſts are far greater than were at firſt promiſed, the mails being now conveyed, not only in half the time they uſed to be, to moſt parts of the kingdom, but in one-third, and even one-fourth of the time in many of the croſs poſts;—theſe poſts are all likewiſe made daily inſtead of three days per week to 320 towns, and likewiſe the ſame additional convenience given to 201 towns on the general poſts, &c.

The public are alſo equally indebted to Mr. Palmer for his new arrangement of the interior duties of the General Poſt Office; and the extent of that obligation may be eaſily diſcerned by attending to the following comparative view of the old with the new duties of this important department of public buſineſs.

OLD.	*NEW.*
The people employed in the inland office, were detained there from ſeven or eight o'clock in the evening, till one, two, three, and ſometimes four and five in the morning, to prepare the mails for going out; their conſtitutions ſuffering all that time by the pernicious effects of the ſmoke from 70 to 100 half-pound tallow candles; * and from ſix or ſeven in the morning till noon, afternoon and night, preparing the letters inwards for delivery, which ſometimes in winter have not been ſent out by the letter carriers till eight o'clock at night.	The hours of morning attendance are from ſix till from nine to eleven, during the very worſt part of the winter, and the reſt of the year from ſix till eight, half paſt eight or nine. In the evening from half paſt four or five till eight.
The letter carriers walks were, many of them, ſo extenſive, as to take up from three, to five and ſix hours in ſerving, after being diſpatched from the office.	Two hours in ſerving, is the time to which they are generally reduced, two hours and an half at the utmoſt, including the walk from the General Poſt Office to the commencement of the delivery.
It ſometimes happened in winter, that mails, after having been detained upon the road a day, and ſometimes two days beyond their time, arrived ſo late in the evening, as not to be opened till the day following; and that the letter carriers not having been ſent out till ſix, ſeven or eight o'clock at night, they could not, on account of the extent of their walks, deliver all the letters till the day after; ſuch additional delays and irregularities increaſing the general inconveniencies from the tardineſs of the Poſt Office.	If a mail does not arrive in time for the general delivery, notice is given to the letter carriers to wait in certain quarters of the town, after they have done their firſt duty, till the twelve letter carriers who ſort in the inland office, are diſpatched to them with the contents of the late mail, for a ſecond delivery.
The duty in the inland office was extremely neglected, and great contempt and indifference prevailed to proper ſubordination and controul. The mode likewiſe of performing the duties, was very ill calculated either for diſpatch, reſponſibility, or for the benefit of the revenue.	An entire new conſtitution is introduced; the officers are claſſed according to their ſeniority; the moſt experienced are entruſted with a limited controul over the junior members, and rules laid down for effecting a proper ſubordination in the juniors. Punctuality of attendance is excited by rewards, which are furniſhed by fines exacted from thoſe who violate neceſſary rules, and unworthy and incapable perſons are to be precluded from promotion. Checks are likewiſe eſtabliſhed for the greater regularity and ſafety of correſpondence, as well as to guard the revenue.

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* It was aſcertained in the year 1784, that out of 100 people who had been appointed to ſituations in the inland office, there was not, at any one period, ſix that had ſurvived it twenty years.

OLD.	*NEW.*
The letters inward were ſorted by the junior clerks of the inland office, who, being ignorant of the town delivery, and indifferent how they did it, they were taken into the letter carrier's office in a ſtate that rendered it neceſſary to ſort one-third of them over again; which, with other obſtructions to the progreſs of the buſineſs, have made it as much as ſix hours from the arrival of the laſt mail to the going out of the letter carriers.	A ſelection of the moſt intelligent letter-carriers, appointed to ſort them, in the firſt inſtance, in the inland office, ſaves all the time that uſed to be loſt by the re-ſorting them in the letter-carrier's office; beſides the advantage gained by the former ſorters being employed in opening and examining the contents of the bags, as the mails arrive: and with ſo much correctneſs is this part of the duty performed at preſent, in conſequence of the regulations and diſcipline lately introduced, that when the weather, and the ſtate of the roads, allow the ſeveral mails to arrive at their appointed hours, the letter-carriers are very ſeldom kept in the office more than an hour, and generally not more than three-quarters of an hour, after the arrival of the laſt mail; and even when, from the badneſs of the roads and the weather, the earlier mails do not arrive ſo ſoon as uſual, and all the mails croud upon the office together, as muſt ſometimes be the caſe, an hour and an half is the utmoſt time they are kept, inſtead of ſix hours, as above deſcribed.
If any one mail belonging to a diviſion conſiſting of three, or four, or five mails, did not arrive for ſeveral hours after the reſt, the contents of thoſe which arrived early, were detained in the inland office till the lateſt was brought in and ſorted, and then all the parts were ſent into the letter carrier's office together, which, by throwing ſo great a quantity of letters upon the carrier's office at a late ſtage of the buſineſs, could not fail to protract the finiſhing it very conſiderably.	The buſineſs goes on progreſſively, through all its ſtages, without interruption; and, if any one of the mails does not arrive by the time the reſt are ready for delivery, the letter-carriers are ſent out, and proviſion made for ſorting and delivering the contents of the late mail, as ſoon as it does arrive.
The experienced claſs of officers ſacrificed the moſt important part of their time, in an evening, to ſorting and preparing newſpapers for conveyance; and, thereby, were utterly diſabled from ſuperintending, as they ought, the ſubordinate people of their ſeveral diviſions, who were employed in taxing and examining letters.	A ſeparate apartment is now prepared for ſorting and making-up newſpapers; and the ſenior officers left entirely to aſſiſt and ſuperintend the more important object of taxing and examining letters.
Deputy Poſtmaſters, if fraudulently inclined, had only to return their letter-bills,	The nightly charges to ſuch Poſtmaſters as return their bills, are doubly told; and an

OLD.	*NEW.*
with a memorandum that they were overcharged, and the deduction required was ſubſcribed to, without a poſſibility of detection, on account of the irregularity with which the charges were entered; and, for want of a proper check, near 400 Poſtmaſters bills have been returned, in one week, for correction, the charges not agreeing, or ſaid not to agree, with the actual amount of the letters ſent.—Innumerable inſtances have occurred of their being under-charged to the amount of 10l. in a bill of 20l. and claims for overcharges allowed to nearly the ſame amount.	inattention to the article of charging, or making out the letter bills, detected, by an examination into the Poſtmaſters' returns, before ſo much time has elapſed as would render it doubtful who prepared the ſame.
The entry of the amount of poſtage, chargeable upon the country Poſtmaſters, and which, in the firſt inſtance, is done by the aſſiſtant clerk of each diviſion, was neglected to a degree ſcarcely credible. Sometimes the amount of many of the poſt towns was not entered at all for days together. Sometimes the amount of certain nights poſtage charged to other nights, which varied conſiderably in the amount. Sometimes the account, for ſeveral days together, of one month, not entered at all under that month, but under another. Oftentimes more ſeparate charges entered in a month than there were poſt days, and the poſtage of one ninth part of the letters ſent away, not entered at all. The day of the month frequently not ſet down againſt the columns which contained the charges; even the name of the month did not appear; and many of the columns incapable of being any way applied or underſtood. From books ſo kept, the Accomptant-General had to make out the charges on the Poſtmaſters.	The ſenior of each ſeparate diviſion being made reſponſible for the due performance of all its duties, the bills are now regularly and accurately entered, and every miſ-charged letter-bill, as well as miſ-ſent letter, poſted up each Monday, in the Public Office. This duty, as well as the reſt, therefore, is no longer ſubject to ſuch errors.
The very great number of letters miſ-ſent, as well as of miſtakes in Poſtmaſters' bills, was chiefly owing to the clerks having, every bye night, between 4 and 5000, and every grand night, between 10 and 11,000 newſpapers to ſort and prepare for conveyance; and there being no means of aſcertaining to what particular officers ſuch blunders were to be charged; for the ſenior officers were ſo	The ſelect letter-carriers, employed in the morning to ſort letters for the town delivery, are employed, in the evening, in ſorting the newſpapers, which affords the ſenior officers leiſure to attend to the conduct of their aſſiſtants, and to ſuperintend the whole buſineſs of their ſeveral diviſions for which they are made reſponſible. Effectual checks are prepared for aſcertaining the particular officer,

OLD.	*NEW.*
fully employed about the newſpapers, that they could pay no attention to the inaccuracies of their aſſiſtants, which were too much conſidered as things of courſe, and unavoidable.	who is accountable for every miſ-ſent letter diſpatched from the office. The numbers chargeable to each are written againſt his name, and fixed up every week in the office; and, though theſe regulations have not yet been ſo matured as to produce all the good effects they are capable of, they have already reduced the number of miſ-ſent letters to leſs than half what they were before.
The amount of letter-bills inwards, paid and unpaid, uſed to be entered by three of the ſenior clerks, who were allowed five guineas each per annum for the ſame. The extra allowance marks that it was conſidered to be an extra duty, and to be performed after the ordinary duties were finiſhed; inſtead of which it was conſtantly done whilſt the morning letters were preparing for delivery; and, of courſe, the officers employed about it, might as well not have been there at all, for any benefit of diſpatch their ſervices afforded.	This duty is now performed by the check-book-keeper, and his aſſiſtant, and occupies four or five hours of the day that does not at all interfere with his other employments, nor occaſion any additional expence for that particular ſervice. Conſiderable advantage is alſo gained in expediting the morning buſineſs, by confining the clerks, who uſed to enter the bills, to the preparing the letters for delivery.
Letters, from all parts of the kingdom, containing money, or having money under ſeal, were continually miſſing, and no means whatever were tried for preventing the evil.	A check is eſtabliſhed, by which it is ſcarcely poſſible for a money-letter, addreſſed to London, to be withheld by any one of the many perſons through whoſe hands it muſt paſs, from the time of its being put into the country office, to that of its delivery by the letter-carriers; not one inſtance of a loſt money-letter, to London, having occurred ſince this regulation was adopted; whereas, formerly, frequent complaints were preferred every week. Further checks are intended to be applied, to guard the correſpondence againſt other frauds.
There was no certain method eſtabliſhed, by which it could be aſcertained, whether all the letter bags arrived, that ought to come in on any particular day. A book, indeed, was kept, which was intended to anſwer ſuch purpoſe; but the manner in which it was kept, entirely defeated the end, and ſerved merely to ſhew the miſtakes of the office, without affording any proof of their being rectified, or	A regular entry is made, and bags, as they arrive, ſo accurately marked off, that it can be known, at any time, what bags are miſſing, how long they have been due, and what days ſuch, as did not come in courſe, arrived at the office.

The

OLD.	*NEW.*
ſhewing whether bags, which did not arrive in courſe, ever came afterwards or not.	
A very conſiderable expence was incurred, under the head of extra duty, performed by the people in the inland office, much of which was occaſioned by granting extra pay to thoſe who attended in the place of others, who ought to, but did not attend. There have been inſtances of nine, ten, and eleven abſent officers, who ſhould have been on duty, and who received their pay the ſame as if they had been there, but for whom others attended, and were paid extra.	The expence, or extra duty, is entirely diſallowed; and, if one officer attend for another, it is either as his voluntary ſubſtitute, or he is paid by the perſon for whom he acts.
The bagman, or perſon appointed to furniſh new bags, and to mend the old ones, was at liberty to charge as many new bags, or for repairing as many old ones, as he thought proper, there being no check whatever ſet on him.	Proper perſons are appointed to examine all the bags, as they come in; to keep thoſe that are in good condition ſeparate from ſuch as want mending; to make a regular entry of the number, and to grant permits for all new bags, in the place of ſuch as can be uſed no longer.
The want of method in entering accounts, reſpecting the riding work, and other articles relative to the Poſtmaſter's claims and allowances, occaſioned great perplexity in them, frequent delays and diſputes, and ſubjected the revenue to continual injury. Upon examination, the books preſented ſeveral inſtances of payment being continued, for performance of duty, for years after that duty had been transferred, and equal pay allowed to another.	By confining the attention of an able accomptant to the preparing new books, and eſtabliſhing a clear method of keeping regular entries of every thing relating to Deputy Poſtmaſters allowances, and by regularly checking them every quarter, previous to the making up each Poſtmaſter's account, paſt errors are, as far as poſſible, corrected, and the revenue guarded againſt a repetition of them in future.
The mails were unprotected, and frequently robbed. The expences of proſecution, &c. have exceeded 4000l. per annum.	All the mails, conveyed upon the new plan, are protected by a guard, who is provided with a blunderbuſs, a brace of piſtols, and proper ammunition for the uſe of the ſame. Each guard is ſworn to his duty, and finds two reſponſible bondſmen, as ſureties, for his good behaviour.
The inland office was ſo much too ſmall, that the clerks were continually in each others way; notwithſtanding which, the windowman, or clerk, of the paid-letter office, had no other place to tranſact his buſineſs, but a ſeat in the inland office, at one of the windows	The office, though ſtill very confined and inconvenient, has been enlarged, by taking in part of the back yard, as far as the extent of that ground would admit; and a paid-letter office is erected, in the fore court, where the buſineſs thereof is carried on, without any

OLD.	*NEW.*
which opened to the Paved Court, where it was poſſible to practiſe fraud and colluſion, in various ways, if he were ſo inclined, and could not be free from continual interruption in his buſineſs.	ſort of interruption, and free from the inducements to fraud, which the former ſituation of the window-man afforded.
The clerks of the paid-letter office, commonly called window-men, who take poſtage for letters, return over-charges, &c. &c. ſhould be of the beſt character for integrity, in a place of ſuch truſt, as well as profeſſional ability, having continual enquiries to anſwer relative to every department of the office. But, though there was ſo great an opening for fraud and colluſion, character or ability were, in general, by no means adequately conſidered in this department.	It is hoped that proper officers fill this ſituation; yet, for better ſecurity, ſuch checks are eſtabliſhed as muſt, in a great meaſure, prevent any fraud on the revenue, even if the parties were inclined to practiſe it.
The letter-carriers, and others, employed to do meſſengers duty, uſed to charge, at the end of every quarter, for as many attendances as they pleaſed, as no check was employed againſt ſuch an overcharge.	A book is now kept, in which ſuch perſons enter their names, when they are employed. This is examined and ſigned every day, and checks their bills at the end of the quarter.

Thus has Mr. Palmer, to the very great and acknowledged advantage of the whole kingdom, given accelerated expedition, perfect ſecurity, an aſſured punctuality, and an encreaſed revenue, to the Adminiſtration of the General Poſt Office.

AN

ALPHABETICAL AND CHRONOLOGICAL

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COMPREHENDING

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G.R III
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Broderic, Hon. William, *India Board*
Broughall, Thomas, Eſq. *Dublin*
Brown, Joſiah, Eſq. *Chancery-lane*
Brown, Mr. *General Poſt Office*
Buller, Richard, Eſq. *Copthall-court*

C.

Cabell, William, Eſq. *India Board*
Calvert, C. Eſq. *Upper Thames-ſtreet*
Calonne, Hon. C. A. *Hyde Park Corner*
Calthorp, Sir Henry, G. Bart. M. P.
Campbell, —— Eſq. *Charlton, Kent*
Campo, His Excellency the Marquis del, Spaniſh Ambaſſador
Carysfort, Right Hon. Lord
Cauſton, Charles, Eſq. *Cuſtom-houſe*
Chalmers, George, Eſq. *Secretary to the Board of Trade*
Chaumette, F. D. de la, Eſq. *Spital-ſquare*
Clarke, Mr. Ald. *Bridge-ſtreet, Black-friars*
Clay, William, Eſq. *Old Broad-ſtreet*
Cleugh, Mr. John
Colkett, Mr. John, *Kennington*
Cooper, Charles, Eſq. *Norwich*
Cooper, Mr. James, *Swithin's-lane*
Coombes, Wm. Eſq. *Harford-ſtreet, May-fair*
Cope, Mr. Thomas, *Rood-lane, Fenchurch-ſtreet*
Corney, Mr. *Bell-alley, Coleman-ſtreet*
Cortiſſos, Mr. *Bury-ſtreet, St. Mary Axe*
Coverdale, Mr. *Stepney Cauſeway*
Court, Mr. John, *Red Lion-ſtreet, Clerkenwell*
Curry, Mr. A. *Theobald's-road*
Cutler, Mr. *Suffolk-lane*

Daniell,

D.

Daniell, —— Eſq. *Welbeck-ſtreet, Cavendiſh-ſquare*
Darell, Edward, Eſq. *Wincheſter-ſtreet*
Daw, T. Eſq. *Treaſury*
Deacon, James, Eſq. *Cuſtom-houſe*
Deſchamps, Mr. John, *Bucklerſbury*
Dew, Edward, Eſq. *Cuſtom-houſe*
Dickinſon, Mr. J. Merchant, *Fenchurch-ſtreet*
Dillon, J. Talbot, Eſq. *Bennett-ſtreet, Blackfriars-road*
Drake, Wm. jun. Eſq. M. P. *Portman-ſquare*
Duché, Jacob, Eſq. *Lambeth*
Durand, Mr. *Grocer's-hall, Poultry-court*
Dutens, Rev. Mr. *Davies-ſtreet, Berkeley-ſquare*

E.

Ellis, John Morſe, Eſq. *Temple*
Elliott and Kay, Bookſellers, *Edinburgh*, 3 ſets
Evans, Mr. Bookſeller, *Paternoſter-row*, 9 ſets

F.

Farrer, Oliver, Eſq.
Faulder, Mr. R. Bookſeller, *New Bond-ſtreet*, 6 ſets
Filewood, Rev. R. *Mickleham, Surrey*
Fiott, John, Eſq. *New Broad-ſtreet*
Foote, Jeſſe, Eſq. Surgeon, *Dean-ſtreet, Soho*
Forbes, John, Eſq. *Aldermanbury*
Franklin, Dr. *America*
Frewin, Richard, Eſq. *Commiſſioner of Cuſtoms*

G.

Gale, John, Eſq. *Secretary Cuſtom-houſe*
Gambier, Robert, Eſq.
Gilman, Mr. J. *Lincoln's-inn*
Giſt, Samuel, Eſq. *America-ſquare*
Godwin, Mr. Geo. *Scott's-yard, Buſh-lane*
Gotobed, Mr. *Fig-tree-court, Temple*
Graham, Meſſrs. *Lincoln's-inn*
Greame, Charles, Eſq.
Green, Mr. John, *Canterbury-ſquare*
Greenwood, Mr. William, *Leiceſter-ſquare*
Gregory, Daniel, Eſq. *Auſtin-friars*
Gregory, Mark, Eſq. M. P. *King's Arms Yard, Coleman-ſtreet*
Gregory, Mr. *Lemon-ſtreet, Goodman's-fields*
Grey, Charles, Eſq. M. P. *Great Ormond-ſtreet*
Griffiths, Thomas, Eſq. *Blackman-ſtreet*
Guaſſon, Peter, Eſq. *Little St. Helens*

H.

Hake, Mr. Abraham, *Sun-court, Cornhill*
Halcombe, Henry, Eſq. *Cuſtom-houſe*
Hall, Geo. Eſq. *Southampton-ſtreet, Bloomſbury*
Hamilton, Mr. *Fenchurch ſtreet*
Harman, Mr. John, *Frederic's-place, Old Jewry*
Haſtings, Mr. *Caſtle-ſtreet, Holborn*
Haworth, Mr. *Chancery-lane*
Hawys, Thomas, Eſq. *Charterhouſe-ſquare*
Herries, Charles, Eſq. *St. Mary Axe*
Hibbert, —— Eſq.
Hibbert, George, Eſq.
Hookham, Mr. Bookſeller, *New Bond-ſtreet*, 12 ſets
Holl, Mr. Robert, *Fenchurch-ſtreet*
Hopkins, Benjamin B. Eſq. *Groſvenor-ſquare*
Hornby, W. Eſq. *Gainſborough, Yorkſhire*
Hubbert, Mr. Alexander, *Mark-lane*
Hume, James, Eſq. *Cuſtom-houſe*
Hunt, Mr. Stephen, *Shadwell*
Hunter, Robert, Eſq. *King's Arms-yard, Coleman-ſtreet*

I.

Jacomb, T. Eſq. *Harcourt-buildings, Temple*
Innis, Mr. John, *Catherine-court, Tower-hill*

K.

Kemble, Mr. Francis, *Swithin's-lane*
Kenyon, Mr. *Laurence Pountney-lane*
Kingſton, Mr. Robert, *Coleman-ſtreet*
Kinlock, Mr. G. T. *Aldermanbury*
Knight, Mr. *St. James's-ſtreet*

Knight, Mr. William, *Tunbridge-wells*
Knowlys, Newnham, Eſq.
Kuhff, Peter Henry, Eſq. *Little St. Helens*

L.

Lanſdown, Marquis of, *Berkley-ſquare*
Laurence and Wincheſter, *Strand*, 2 ſets
Lawrence, —— Eſq.
Leighton, William, Eſq. *Charlton, Kent*
Le Meſurier, Paul, Eſq. M. P. *Walbrook*
Leptrap, John, Eſq. *Whitechapel*
Lewes, Sir Watkin, M. P. *King's-road*
Lincoln, Lord Biſhop of, *Deanery St. Paul's*
Linſhill, —— Eſq. *Fenchurch-buildings*
Locker, Capt. W. *Kenſington*
Long, —— Eſq.
Longman, Mr. T. Bookſeller, *Pater-noſter-row*, 6 ſets

M.

Macartney, Lord, *Curzon-ſtreet, May-fair*
Man, Henry, Eſq. *South-Sea Houſe*
Manning, William, Eſq. *St. Mary Axe*
Martin, Robert, Eſq. *Hommerton*
Maſon, Mr. *Fenchurch-ſtreet*
Mather, Mr. James, *Birchin-lane*, 2 ſets
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Matthews, Mr. W. *Cannon-ſtreet*
Mawbey, Sir Joſeph, M. P. *Great George-ſtreet*
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Middleton, Sir Charles, M. P. *Comptroller of the Navy*
Mill, James, Eſq. *Camberwell*
Moleſworth, J. Eſq. *Petty France*
Monro, Dr. *Bedford-ſquare*
Motteux, John, Eſq. *Walbrook*
Murrell, Wm. Eſq. *Crutched Friars*

N.

Neville, R. A. Eſq. M. P.
Nicol, Mr. G. Bookſeller, *Pall Mall*, 7 ſets
Nicholſon, Mr. *Great St. Helens*
Nolken, His Excellency Baron de, *Swediſh Ambaſſador*
Neunburgh, Mr. *Cornhill*

O.

Ogles, Meſſrs. J. and E. *Billiter-ſquare*
Omond, Timothy, Eſq. *Cuſtom Houſe*
Orde, Thomas, Eſq. *St. James's-place*

P.

Paget, John, Eſq. *Red Lion-ſquare*
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Palmer, Mr. *Mark-lane*
Parker, Mr. J. C. *Chancery-lane*
Patten, —— Eſq.
Payneand Son, Bookſellers, *Mews-gate, Charing Croſs*
Peachey, John, Eſq. M. P.
Peters, George, Eſq. *Old Bethlem*
Phynn and Ellice, *Mark-lane*
Ping, Mr. John, *John-ſtreet, Berkley-ſquare*
Pitt, Right Hon. William, M. P.
Pitts, Edward, Eſq.
Plumtree, Mr.
Poole, Charles, Eſq. *Eaſt India Board*
Portland, His Grace the Duke of
Porter, W. Eſq. *Copthall-court, Throgmorton-ſtreet*
Pottinger, Richard, Eſq.
Potts, Mr. James, *Leman-ſtreet, Goodman's-fields*
Prime, Mr. Richard, *Bucklerſbury*

R.

Radd, Mr. S. *Eaſt-India Houſe*
Ranſom, Moreland and Co. Bankers, *Pall-mall*
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Reynell, Rev. Mr. *jun. Stamford, Lincolnſhire*
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Roberts, Daniel, Eſq. *Forſter-lane, Cheapſide*

Robſon and Clarke, Bookſellers, *New Bond-ſtreet*, 12 ſets
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Roſe, Geo. Eſq. M. P. *Secretary of the Treaſury*

S

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Schutte, —— Eſq.
Scott, Alexander, Eſq. *Great James ſtreet*
Scott, C. Eſq. *Great Alie-ſtreet, Goodman's-fields*
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Sewell, Mr. John, Bookſeller, *Cornhill*, 12 ſets
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Sibthorp, Col. *Canwick*, near *Lincoln*
Silveſter, John, Eſq. *Chancery-lane*
Smith, Joſ. Eſq. *Great George-ſtreet*
Stalker, Mr. Charles, Bookſeller, *Stationers-court*, 12 ſets
Staniforth, Charles, Eſq. *Broad-ſtreet-buildings*
Stanley, T. Eſq.
Steele, T. Eſq. M. P. *Secretary of the Treaſury*
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Summers, Charles, Eſq. *Clapton*

T.

Taylor, Mr. B. *Serjeants-inn, Fleet-ſtreet*
Thompſon, James, Eſq. *Croſs-lane, Waterford*
Trevor, Hon. John
Tweedy, Rev. Mr.

U.

Vanharthell, Edward, Eſq. *Copthall-court*
Vaughan, William, Eſq. *Mincing-lane*
Urmſton, Captain, *Chigwell, Eſſex*
Uſtonſon, Mr. Thomas, No. 205, *Fleet-ſtreet*

W.

Walſingham, Rt. Hon. Ld. *Poſt Maſter General*
Wale, Gregory, Eſq. *Adelphi*
Walker, Mr. John, *Ironmonger-lane*
Walker, Mr. John, *Baſinghall-ſtreet*
Ward, John, Eſq. *Fenchurch-ſtreet*
Webſter, James, Eſq. *Leadenhall-ſtreet*
Welſtead, Mr. George, *Cuſtom Houſe*
Whalley, Mr. James, *Clark Hill, Blackbourn, Lancaſhire*
White, Mr. Luke, Bookſeller, *Dublin*, 25 ſets
White and Son, Bookſellers, *Fleet ſtreet*, 13 ſets
White, Mr. William, *Garlick-hill*
White, Mr. Attorney, *Harleſton, Norfolk*
Wilcox, Francis Davey, Eſq. *Fenchurch-ſtreet*
Wilkinſon, John, Eſq, *Mancheſter*
Willes, John, Eſq. *Dulwich*
Windham, Joſeph, Eſq.
Winthrope, B. Eſq. *John-ſtreet, King's-road*
Winter, John, Eſq. *Swithin's-lane*
Wiſſett, Robert, Eſq. *Eaſt-India Houſe*
Wolſe, George Ernſt, Eſq. *Daniſh Conſul Wellcloſe-ſquare*
Wood, Mr. George, *Old Bethlem*
Woronzow, His Excellency Count, *the Ruſſian Ambaſſador*
Wright, John, Eſq. *Clapham*
Wright, Gill and Dalton, *Abchurch-lane*

Y.

Yeates, Anthony, Eſq. *Jamaica*
Young, Sir William, Bart. M. P.

☞ *THE Publiſher thinks it neceſſary to apologize for the omiſſion of ſo many reſpectable names, who have honoured this Work with their patronage. This, however, ariſes from his not being ſufficiently acquainted with the wiſhes of thoſe Gentlemen on this head; ſince, however highly he might be gratified by this flattering mark of approbation, he is too ſenſible of the obligations already conferred, to urge any further extenſion of them.*

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